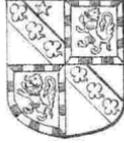


Hic jacet Nicholaus herve miles qui obiit in seho Sancti Michaeli Anno domini millesimo quingentesimo trigesimo secundo in Anno Regni Regis Henrici octavi xxiiii cui ate ppietia deus Amen



Henrici octavi xxiiii cui ate ppietia deus Amen

Grass of Sir Nicholas Hervey Kt  
AOPHILL CHURCH, COM: BEDFORD.

### SIR NICHOLAS HERVEY, Kt.

SOME account of Sir Nicholas Hervey Kt. was given at p. 365, of vol. 2 of the "Proceedings." The brass on his tomb at Ampthill church, of which a representation is here given, shows him to have been *third* son of William Hervey of Ickworth and Joan Coket his wife, by the very distinct mullet in the first quarter of his coat of arms. It will be observed also that the arms are *Hervey* quartering *Niernuyt*; and as Sir Nicholas was a contemporary of Sir George Hervey, (though a few years younger) and died within ten years of him, and within little more than fifty years of Sir George's grandfather, who was Joan Niernuyt's husband, the additional proof thus afforded of the descent of the Ickworth Herveys from those of Thurley is of great weight. The tomb was probably erected by his wife, who died in 1536, just before Ann Boleyn's trial. As regards the reason of his being buried at Ampthill, I have no certain knowledge. But as Queen Katherine resided at the royal manor of Ampthill from the summer of 1531, till the summer of 1533, the time of the divorce (*see* Miss Strickland, vol. ii p.p. 539, 541, 543), and Henry himself visited it from July 23 to 29, of the year 1532, it is probable that he was there in connection with the king's service. It is not impossible that he may have been employed to try to persuade Katherine to consent to the divorce; certainly he was still high in the king's favour, since in March 1532, not six months before Sir Nicholas' death, the king was

godfather to Henry\* his eldest son by his second marriage, as appears by the following entry in the "Privy Purse expenses of King Henry VIII," published by Sir N. Harris Nicolas, "Item the vith daye paid to the norice and the myd-wife of Sir Nicholas Harvy chielde, iii li. vis. viiiid. His wife too, Sir Richard Wingfield's widow, was the intimate friend of Ann Boleyn,† and became one of the Ladies of her bedchamber on her being raised to the throne. It is sad to add that it was on the information of this very Lady Wingfield, given on her deathbed, that, if Bishop Burnet's story on the authority of Sir John Spelman is true, (*History of Reformation*, i. p. 197, p. 318 edition 1830,) Ann Boleyn was arraigned. But Froude seems to throw doubt upon it (*Hist. Eng.*, vol. ii. p. 461, note). I note by the way that she is called *the Lady Wingfield*, perhaps in consequence of Sir Richard's rank as K.G., in spite of her two subsequent marriages; and correct the statement at p. 369 of the "Proceedings," that 'she had been' lady of the bedchamber to Ann Boleyn, at the time of her marriage to Sir Nicholas. Bishop Burnet's statement implies that it was after Ann Boleyn was crowned, *i.e.*, after 1533, that she was "servant" to her, and not before her marriage; though Ann Boleyn had ladies in waiting, trainbearer, and chaplains as early as 1528 (*Strickland*, ii. p. 607).

The two letters to King Henry VIII, the one from Sir Nicholas Hervey, and the other from his successor in the embassy, Sir John Hackett,—which accompany the plate, need no comment, except to state that they are printed in vol. ii. p. 245 of *State Papers*, and show that Sir Nicholas came on this embassy in June 1530 (not 1532 as erroneously stated at p. 368 of the *Proceedings*), and was recalled in January 1531; being by Hackett's account "very glad to be discharged of his commission." The MSS. are preserved

\* I presume that *Henry* was the king's godson from his name. His younger brother George, who was 72 in August, 1605, must have been a posthumous child.

† See a letter from Ann Boleyn to my Lady Wingfield, on the death of Sir Richard

at Toledo, in July 1525, in *Miss Strickland*, vol. ii. p. 587. Sir Richard's first wife was Katherine Woodville, widow of Jasper Tudor, Duke of Bedford, *Strickland*, ii. p. 680.

in duplicate at the State Paper Office, and are partly in cypher; but the other letters alluded to as written from Mechlin and Cologne are not extant.

As regards the brass itself, the original tomb was built partly in the wall (recessed) of the north aisle, and partly in the aisle. When the church was restored it was found to interfere with the space required, and was consequently taken down, and the slab with the brass upon it was laid flat, and now lies under a pew floor, with a moveable boarding over it. Under these circumstances it was a matter of no small difficulty to obtain a rubbing of it. The difficulty however, was overcome by the skill, and determination of James Wyatt, Esq., of Bedford, to whose kindness I am indebted for the rubbing from which the plate is taken. He writes me word that "the inscription is on the right side, and foot of the stone, on a bevilled edge. There is no appearance of any brass label having been on the other end and side of the stone. I have said *appearance*, I should rather say *feeling*, for I could not see, but passed my fingers round the edges, which are rough." It is much to be regretted that this monument should have been so put out of sight.

There is a brief account of this brass in Nichols's *Topographer and Genealogist*, vol. i. p. 63, and a lithograph of it was taken by Fisher, of which one or more copies are in Mr. Nichols's possession.

ARTHUR HERVEY.

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(*Letters to King Henry the VIIIth.*)

SIR NICHOLAS HARVY TO KING HENRY VIII.

Pleas it your Highnes,

Sythe my commynge hiddelwardes I have wrytten to your grace two my former letters, the one beryng date at the Toun of Meghelin the 22nd of the monnythe laste paste, and the other from Coleyn the 27th of the same monnythe, whiche from Coleyn I deliverde into the handes of Sir Herman Rynge, addressynge it to your Highnesses Ambassadour with

the Ladye Margarite\* ; and upon rapporte of the sayde Sir Herman, made therein mencion a leghe to be taken wyth the Turke, and an appointment betwixte Don Fernando and Vyvalde upon certen condicions : howbeit, I can here fynde no sayenges, but rather apperance to the contrarie.

Furthermore it maye pleas Your Grace to understonde that upon Fridaye 8<sup>te</sup> of this monnythe I atteigny'd hidder, and the seconde daye after myne arrivall by one of the Maisters dostell, callid le Maistre Mouqueron, I was conveyed from my lodginge unto themperors presence into his bedd chamber, wher I deliverd Your Highnesses letter, with Your Graces hartye recommendacions unto Hym ; bothe which He accepted in right lovyng and frendelye wise, makynge in semblable facion recueil unto me, and thankyd Your Grace hartelye in that it had lykyd Your Highnes to send to be recident with Hym one, by whom He might have knowledge of Your Graces good estate from tyme to tyme. And after declaracion of the firste part of my charge, *He attempting noo thing of Your Graces greate cause*, with a verry sobre manner sayd, that at all seasons when I shuld have any affaire to be shewyd Hym from Your Highnes, I shulde be hartelye well-com unto Hym, and wolde gladlye geve me audience at all seasons.

The day followinge I repairid unto the Kyng of Hungarie at his lodgyng, widder I was conveyed allso by one of the Maisters of his Household ; and deliveryng Hym Your Graces letter, with Your Highnesses effecteous recommendacions, He shewed in his maintien and countenance to be gretelye rejoyisd and satisfied therewith, and usid me in my recueil after a kynde and familier facion, sayenge that he shulde be right glad at all tymes to here of Your Graces good convalescence, and was verry wele contentid to knowe that by me He mighte have meane to geve Your Highnes advertisement from Hym at all tymes when the cas shall so require.

Moreover, it maye like Your Grace to be ascertenyd that a grete compagne of the Estates of the Empire be here assembled, and all the Princes, savinge the Bisshop of Treve † and the Counte Palentine Ludovic, whiche two personaiges be absent by occasion of som diseases, and have made theyr excuses, consentinge, as I here saye, to all that shalbe decreed and done by th Emperour and the other Electours here, as farr forthe as iff they were them selffes present. *Daylly counsaillies be had upon the Lutheran secte, whiche as yet bringe furthe litle towardnes to that purpose, and somewhere men doubtte that th Emperour shall have to moche to doo to redresse that affaire, for their supporters holde theyre opinyons stronglye, and shrinke not a deals therat ; and so it shulde seme, as well in that thing as other, the Emperour shalbe somewhat used, as his predecessors have been ; that is to saye, as it shall please them. Neverthelessse by the Cardinall of Luke, with whom I supped yesternight, and had of him, for Your Highness sake, as gentle, loving and frendely cheer a sever I had, being everaye (sic) to hear of Your Graces good estate, I perceyved that the heddes of that secte incline sumwhat to th Emperors mynde ; wherby good hope is had, that with som leysor and jaire meanes they shalbe reduced, for in other maner is no holsom medling*

\* The passages printed in Italic are in cypher, in the original.

† Richard Greiffenklau, Archbishop of Treves, died in the following year.

*with them. In whiche and other behalves as I shall ferther fele and knowe, I shall not fayle from tyme to tyme to assartayne Your Grace.*

*The said Cardynall shewed me also that th Emperour had worde how as well the toun and campe at Florence is infectid with the plaghe, and that the Emperour is in doubte of the Prince of Orange his chieff Captin, and the residue of his people ther.*

Some men judge that in this enterprinse th Emperour hathe been unto the Pope as well a scourge as a frende, for under comforte of Hym the Pope hathe in the same enterprinse wastid hys frendes, people and substaunce to small effecte.

*Your Highnes shall herewith receyve a letter from the Duke George of Saxon, whiche is answeere to Your Graces letters sent unto hym by me, at the deliveraunce whereof he willed me from tyme to tyme to repayre unto him.*

And thus I beseeche Almyghtye God to have Your Highnes allwayes in Hys moste blessed preservacion. Wryttn at the toune of Osbourghe, in the cuntrey of Swethin, the 11th daye of the monnythe of July, anno 1530.

*I send Your Grace the dubble of thys by Sir Herman Ringes handes.\**

No manner person as yet, sithe my beyng here, hathe moved me of Your Graces greate cause.

*Duke George letter is with the dubble herof, sent by Sir Harmon Ringes handes.*

By Your Highnesses moste humble subject and servant.

(signed) N. HARVY.

(superscribed)

To the Kinges Highnes.

#### HACKETT TO KING HENRY VIII.

Plesse Your Highnys to understand, that now of late I beyng arywyd at your town of Calles, and there tarreyng to know what Your Highnes is plessur was to command me to do, the second day of this monnyth I resewit syche letters as hath plessyd Your Grace to send me, by the whiche Your Highnes is letters ye have syngynfyed and comyttyth me to be Your Hyghnes is Imbassadour toward and with the Emperour, in lyke wysse as Your former Imbassadour Master Harvy,\* whom at this tyme Your Grace revockes Homeward And acording to Your Highnes is commandment, and that to accomply the same to the best of my lyttyll poer, I departyth from Calles the 3rd day of the sayd monnyth, and for som lytyll byssenys that I had a do, consernyng myn afferes at Bruges and at Mackyng, wyth slowe deligence I arryvyd in this town of Brussellis the 11th

\* This duplicate is still with the original.

day of this monnyth to your Imbassator Master Harvy is lodging, to whom I was as right hartly welcom as to one that was werry glad to be dys-chargyd of his comyssyon. And after that we had consultancy our charges to gyddyr, we fond the comodytte to have had audyence of the Emperour ysterday afor dynner: and there comyng to his presence, accordyng to my charge, after Your Highnes moste hartly recommendacions and my devoers done, I delyvyrd His Majeste Your Highnes is letters, who with a sad familiar contenance ressewit them, and after the redyng possyd Hymself with silence, tyll Master Harvy schowyd His Majeste how Your Highnes is plessuer was to revoke hym homward, and that I schowld tarre here with hys sayd Majeste, in his place, as Your Highnes is Imbassadour; which wourdes I affyrmyth sych to be Your Highnes is plessur. And here to His Majeste answeyrd, that the contenttes of Your Highnes is letters to Hym confourmed with our saynges, and that he was sory of Master Harvy is departyng, but that in a mowch as your plessyr was syche, that His Majeste was well plessyd of my comyng, acceptyng me right agreably. After that His Majeste imbrassyd me, for my first welcomyng.

And as touchyng the surplus of all the wanteys, that they spek here in general nombyr, and of all other occurrenttes or tedynges that we have here at this tyme, the berrer here of, Your Highnes is Imbassatour, Master Harvy, may schow Your Grace at large of all the premyssys; and makyng an eynd of this, Almighty God prosspere Your Highnes with long life, good helt and felicite. From Brussellis, the 13th day of Fevrer, 1530.

Your right hummyll soggett and servent,

JOHN HACKETT.

(superscribed)

To the Kinges Hyghnys Noble Grace.

\* By a recredential letter from the Emperour to Henry, dated at Bruxelles the 13th of Feb. and remaining in the State Paper

Office, it appears that Harvy's letters of recall and Hackett's appointment were made on the 27th of January.