

JOHN HARRINGTON 1561 - 1612

Xmas 1602 : he came to court and was moved to grief by the Queen's
'show of human infirmity'

Bindoff 'Tudor England' Pelican p.308
(cp Lytton Strachey 'Elizabeth and Essex'
Penguin p.223)

In 1596 the Queen's godson and friend, JH published a book ('A New Discourse
on a State Subject called the Metamorphosis of Ajax') with slightly
disparaging remarks on Leicester. He was banished from Court 'till he
had grown sober'

Derek Wilson 'Sweet Robin' p. 303

After the Queen's death, he says he will retire to the country 'and
tend my sheep like an Arcadian swain that hath lost his fair mistress'
Joel Hurstfield 'Elizabeth I and the Unity of
England' Pelican p.159

JH - 'a gay spark who had translated Ariosto into English verse and
written a Rabelaisian panegyric on WCs'

Lytton Strachey op. cit. p. 160

he was too shrewd to present a message from Essex at court. He
had himself been too familiar with Tyrone. His step-mother was a
natural daughter of Henry VIII

L. Strachey p. 174

JE Neale 'Queen Elizabeth'

his freshest memories were of the Queen's last years (p.219)

She resented Essex stealing her godson's affection. Told by the
Queen to go home, JH writes 'If all the Irish rebels had been at my heels,
I should not have had better speed'. P.364

'that witty fellow, my godson' p.378

JH 'sometimes needs to be taken with a pinch of salt' p.379

Comments from George
Gillespie

Robert Dunning
Christianity in Somerset.

His round, 'How great is the pleasure,' and duet, 'How sweet in the woodlands,' were once very popular. He was also author of: 1. 'Ode to Harmony.' 2. 'Ode to Discord.' 3. 'The Witch of Wokey.' 4. 'A Treatise on the Use and Abuse of Musick.' 5. 'The Geometrical Analogy of the Doctrine of the Trinity consonant to Human Reason,' 1806.

[Gent. Mag. 1816, pt. i. pp. 185-6, 352, 640; Public Characters, 1799-1800, pp. 494-506; Georgian Era; Reuss's Alphabetical Register, pt. i. p. 451; Dict. of Living Authors, 1816, pp. 145-146; Grove's Dict. of Music, i. 691; J. D. Brown's Biog. Dict. of Musicians, p. 303.] G. G.

HARINGTON, SIR JOHN (1561-1612), miscellaneous writer, was descended from a good family, which traced its name to Haverington in Cumberland, and in the fifteenth century had lands at Exton. It suffered, however, in the Wars of the Roses, and in the reign of Henry VIII its representative, **JOHN HARINGTON** (fl. 1550), lived at Stepney, and filled the post of treasurer to the king's camps and buildings. While holding that office Harington employed John Bradford the martyr [q. v.] as his clerk, and it is said by Bradford's biographers that he compelled Harington about 1549 to make a restitution to the crown of a sum of money which Harington had misappropriated. Strype (*Memorials*, vol. iii. pt. i. p. 366), however, represents that Bradford was himself guilty of misappropriating public moneys, which Harington made good to shield his clerk from punishment (cf. *Notes and Queries*, 2nd ser. i. 125-6). Harington seems to have been a confidential servant of Henry VIII, and revived the fortunes of his house by marrying a natural daughter of the king, Etheldreda, daughter of Joanna Dyngley or Dobson, who was brought up by the king's tailor, John Malte, as a natural daughter of his own. Henry granted her the monastic forfeitures of Kelston, Bathaston, and Katharine in Somerset, and on his marriage in 1546 Harington settled at Kelston, near Bath, on his wife's estate (COLLINSON, *History of Somersetshire*, ii. 128). Etheldreda soon died without issue, leaving her lands to her husband, who showed his gratitude to his benefactor by devoting himself to the service of the Princess Elizabeth. Harington was a cultivated man and a poet, who in his visits to Elizabeth at Hatfield turned his muse to the praises of her six gentlewomen, but soon singled out among them Isabella Markham, daughter of Sir John Markham of Cotham (*Nugæ Antiquæ*, ed. 1804, ii. 324-7, 390). He married her early in 1554, for in that year he and his wife were imprisoned in the Tower with the Princess Elizabeth. In 1561

their son John was born, and Elizabeth, who had now ascended the throne, repaid their loyalty by acting as his godmother.

Harington was educated at Eton, and the queen showed her interest in her godson by sending him a copy of her speech to parliament in 1575, with a note bidding him to 'ponder these poor words in thy hours of leisure, and play with them till they enter thine understanding.' From Eton Harington went to Cambridge. He matriculated as a fellow-commoner of King's 8 Dec. 1576, graduated B.A. as 'filius nobilis' 1577-8, and proceeded M.A. in 1581. He appears to have received some instruction from John Still [q. v.], master of Trinity (from May 1577), afterwards bishop of Bath and Wells, 'to whom,' he says, 'I never came but I grew more religious, from whom I never went but I parted better instructed.' He was already well known to Burghley, who wrote him a letter of good advice about his undergraduate career (*ib.* i. 181). In spite of these exhortations he ran into debt, and had to ask an old family friend to intercede for him with his father (*Tanner MS.* 169, f. 62). After leaving Cambridge Harington studied law at Lincoln's Inn, but there merely gained reputation as a wit and a man of the world. About 1584 he married Mary, daughter of Sir George Rogers of Cannington in Somerset, but marriage only increased his exuberant spirits. His epigrams began to pass current, and he enlivened the court by his sallies, which were not always adapted to a fastidious taste. Among other things, he translated for the amusement of the court ladies the story of Giocondo, from the twenty-eighth book of Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*, and his translation was handed about in manuscript till it fell into the hands of the queen. She reprimanded Harington for corrupting the morals of her ladies by translating the least seemly part of Ariosto's work, and ordered him as a punishment to leave the court for his country house till he had made a translation of the whole. To this he owed the translation of the *Orlando Furioso*, which was first published in folio in 1591, and reissued in 1607 and 1634. It is written in the same stanza as the original, and is easy and flowing, but without much distinction. It is rather a paraphrase than a translation, and bears signs of being hastily produced. As a preface to it Harington wrote 'An Apologie of Poetrie,' an essay in criticism which resembles Sir Philip Sidney's treatise of the same time. The most remarkable part of it is that concerned with his use of metre, especially his defence of two-syllabled and three-syllabled rhymes.

In 1592 Elizabeth, on her visit to Bath, was the guest of Harington at Kelston, which

Harington

Died at Kelston on 20
wife survived till 1634
9 child. 2 d.

Estate of K. rem'd in

D. E. spoke of him as

+ he was generally

amusing

gossip

chiefly deal with the life and John Harington [q. v.] and first volume appeared in 1769, or's name; a second volume, or Harington's name on the as dedicated to Lord Francis of Wells. A second enlarged volumes (the earliest copy in sum) is dated 1779. Harington the title-page, and there y him to Charles, bishop of The work was re-edited by 1804, 2 vols.

at Oxon.; Le Neve's Fasti, Gent. Mag. 1791, pt. ii. p. S. L.

N, HENRY, M.D. (1727- and author, born at Kelston, September 1727, was the rington of that place. Sir [q. v.] was an ancestor. On atriculated at Queen's Col- graduated B.A. in 1749, ER, *Alumni Oxon.* 1715- while residing at Oxford he musical society, established Hayes (1708-1777) [q. v.], y were admitted who were ing at sight. Abandoning king orders he commenced licine, and in 1753 esta- a physician at Wells. He grees in medicine in 1762, ed to Bath, where he de- composition, and founded ic Society. The Duke of m his physician. He was and magistrate of Bath, ice of mayor. Harington 18, and was buried in the Church. Two sons by his e—Sir Edward Harington ton, D.D.—are separately

'A Favourite Collection egies, and Canons.' 2. 'A of Songs, Glees, Elegies, ea.' 3. 'A third Collec- ts, single Songs, Rotas, ad other Compositions... bed,' 1800, edited by his eabella Thomas. These by several compositions such as 'Eloi! Eloi! or, a sacred dirge for Pas- homas Day,' 'Give me Wedding,' 'The Stamp- The Alderman's Thumb,' s compositions, whether are remarkably pleasing.

Kelweston the Calves ~~place~~ ^{Kelston}

Princess Elizabeth. was locked up by Queen Mary
in a castle & looked after by ~~Edward~~ ^{John} Harrington
so well that later on he asked if he might ask her
to be Godmother to his son John. John became a courtier to
Queen Elizabeth known as her 'Boy Jack' ^{That witty following godson}

When Essex her favorite went to quell Ireland - John
went as well. They were given the usual run
around by the Irish & ~~thought~~ they had done well by
making a treaty with Irish Chieftains.

When they came back Essex said he had taken the
liberty of knighting her Godson. She said

Gods blood sir, you undertook the privilege of a
Queen - But of my sight - And they both
shut out of sight - Sir John Harrington for 8 years back
to Kelston Manor ¹⁵⁸⁷ But by degrees he
went back to court. John Haddons book on Bath

says that 1591. He linked Godliness with cleanliness.
"John Harr Bess's godson invented a privy drained with water
scented water for the ladies. people won't be clean. They think
hes mad or dirty minded." Her wrote the

(1595) metamorphosis of a Jakes (Ajax) Queen had one at Woodford

~~That witty following godson~~ He was a brave man &
spoke in defence of Raleigh at the Trial 1618

1628 Son John in Corsica. had a daughter.

Kelston Park 1770 - built for Kelston Manor for Sir Cesar Hawk
squire to George II & III by

John Wood

John Harrington married ~~Elfrida~~ Elthefreda natural
d. of Henry VIII

Treasure to Henry VIII.

Hatfield 1546 ~~the~~ princess Elizabeth
in tower Rewarded for loyalty.

Sons John H. married Isabelle Markham
C. 1561

1561 to 1612