

## SKETCH OF SIR ROBERT DUDLEY.

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Sir ROBERT DUDLEY took to Italy with him, disguised as his page, Lady Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Southwell of the Romish party. At that time she was esteemed one of the finest ladies in England. Sir Robert Dudley had been married first to a daughter of Thomas Cavendish, the noted navigator; and she dying s. p. soon after their marriage, which took place about 1595, he married secondly Alice Leigh,\* third daughter of Sir Thomas Leigh of Stoneley, by which lady he had five daughters, living in 1616, and four of them grown to maturity. Sir Robert left sufficient provision for them (says Dr. Campbell,) when he went to Italy.

I. ALICE, bapt. at Kenilworth, Sept. 25, 1597, d. 1621 unm.

II. FRANCES, m. Sir Gilbert Kniveton, Bart., of Bradley, Co. Derby, and d. in 1663, being buried in the Church of St. Giles-in-the-fields, London.

III. ANNE, m. Sir Robert Holbourne, solicitor general to Charles I. She d. about 1663.

IV. CATHERINE, m. Sir Richard Levison, K. B., of Trentham. She d. in 1673, and was buried at Lilshall, Co. Salop, with her husband, who died before her.

V. DOUGLASSA, m. Capt. Wm. Dansey of Brinsop, near Hereford, and d. s. p., 1649. Her monument is in Brinsop churchyard. There is an inscription to the "Rt. Hon. lady Douglas Dudley." See *Robinson's Mauors of Herefordshire*, p. 44.

Lady Alice, the mother of the above children, was granted by Charles I the title of Duchess Dudley during the term of her natural life, and also the same privileges and precedencies to her daughters, as if they had been a duke's daughters, and in the preamble to the letters-patent for this purpose, the legitimacy of Sir Robert Dudley is asserted and the injustice that had been done him is acknowledged. Duchess Dudley also secured to herself and her daughters the remains of that great fortune which devolved to Sir Robert Dudley by the Earl of Leicester's will, and other conveyances, which Sir Robert had forfeited to the crown by his refusal to return to England at the command of King James I.

The Duchess resided many years in the parish of St. Giles-in-the-fields, London (granted to the Earl of Warwick by Henry VIII.), and died there Jan. 22, 1668-9, in her ninetieth year. She had been a very devout churchwoman, and profuse in her charities, and especially in rebuilding the church in St. Giles, and repairing the monuments of the Earl of Leicester (Robert

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\*See her portrait at page 796.