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Edited by Joan Kirby

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PREFACE

The Plumpton letter collection, the least well known of the four early collections of English letters, precedes by more than a century other Northern collections of lay correspondence. Not only a unique source for Northern history, it is of value for political, social and legal history generally. The present edition, made possible by the rediscovery of the main text, contains material unavailable to Thomas Stapleton, whose edition of 1839, though remarkable for its date, is by present standards deficient in many respects, and may have obscured the interest, significance and value of the texts.

I am deeply grateful to Mr G. C. F. Forster and Mr John Taylor of the University of Leeds for checking the text and for their most generous help in many ways; also to Professor M. W. Beresford for bringing material to my notice. I am indebted too to Mr Robert Frost, Archivist to the Joint Committee of the West Yorkshire Archive Service, and to Mr W. J. Connor, Archivist to the Leeds District Archives, for making a photocopy of the Plumpton Letter Book available to me for transcription, and for permission to include the transcripts of this and other material in the present edition; also to Mr Brett Harrison and the staff of the Leeds District Archives for their willing help, and to Mrs Sylvia Thomas, Archivist to the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, whose Council has authorized the inclusion of material from the Society's collections. The Keeper of Western Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library and the Curator of the Manuscript Collections in the British Library have kindly granted permission for the inclusion of transcripts of material from these collections.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bodl. Lib.	Bodleian Library
BL	British Library
BIHR	<i>Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research</i>
CB	Plumptre Coucher Book
CCR	<i>Calendar of Close Rolls</i>
CFR	<i>Calendar of Fine Rolls</i>
CIPM	<i>Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem</i>
CPR	<i>Calendar of Patent Rolls</i>
CSPD	<i>Calendar of State Papers Domestic</i>
DNB	L. Stephens and S. Lee (eds), <i>Dictionary of National Biography</i> (63 vols, 1885–1900)
Econ.HR	<i>Economic History Review</i>
EHR	<i>English Historical Review</i>
GEC	G.E.C.(ed.), <i>Complete Peerage</i> (13 vols, 1910–59)
HBC	Sir Maurice Powicke and E. B. Fryde (eds), <i>Handbook of British Chronology</i> (2nd edn, 1961)
L&P	<i>Calendar of Letters and Papers Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII</i> (21 vols, 1864–1920)
NED	Sir James A. H. Murray (ed.), <i>A New English Dictionary</i> (11 vols, 1888–1919)
NH	<i>Northern History</i>
OED	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> (2nd edn, 19 vols, 1959)
PRO	Public Record Office
RP	<i>Rotuli Parliamentorum ut et Placita in Parlamento</i> (6 vols, 1767–77)
Somerville	R. Somerville, <i>History of the Duchy of Lancaster</i> , i (1953)
Stapleton	Thomas Stapleton (ed.), <i>The Plumptre Correspondence</i> (Camden Society, o.s. IV, 1839)
SS	<i>Surtees Society</i>
Test.Ebor.	J. Raine and J. T. Clay (eds), <i>Testamenta Eboracensia</i> , Surtees Society, IV (1836); XXX (1855); XLV (1865); LIII (1869); LXXIX (1884); CVI (1902)
TRHS	<i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i>
VCH	<i>Victoria History of the Counties of England</i>
WYASL	West Yorkshire Archive Service (Leeds)
WYASYAS	West Yorkshire Archive Service (Yorkshire Archaeological Society)
YAJ	<i>Yorkshire Archaeological Journal</i>
YASRS	Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series

The Later Plumptons (Abbreviated)



