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First Marquis of Halifax
H. C. Foxcroft
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A CHARACTER OF THE
TRIMMER

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SIR GEORGE SAVILE
MARQUIS OF HALIFAX

*After the portrait in the possession of His Grace the
Duke of Devonshire*

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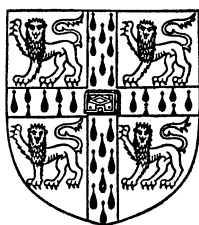
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A CHARACTER
OF THE
TRIMMER

Being a SHORT LIFE of the FIRST
MARQUIS *of* HALIFAX

BY
H. C. FOXCROFT



CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
1946

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

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education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107455641

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First published 1946

First paperback edition 2014

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-107-45564-1 Paperback

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J. T. F.
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IN STUDIIS HISTORICIS VERSATO
MUNERIBUS OFFICII SUI PRAECLARE FUNCTO
APUD NILI RIPAS
MELIORA NI FATA VETUISSENT POLLICITO
QUI NATU ME MINOR
MAJOR EHEU MORTE SUA
DESIDERIUM AMICIS RELIQUIT INEXPLEBILE
HOC OPUS SENECTUTIS MEAE
TANDEM TRIBUI.

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Preface

The origin of the present work seems to demand some preliminary explanation.

In the year 1897 there appeared a *Life and Works of the first Marquis of Halifax*—the earliest and, up to now, sole attempt of this nature—by the present author. Though the work of a then young and quite inexperienced writer, it had the good fortune to attract and retain the attention of experts in the period in question. Its length, however, and a multiplicity—it may be feared a superfluity—of footnotes acted as an almost complete deterrent to the general reader. It has long been the wish of its author to produce a less ponderous biography, which might arouse a wider interest in the personality and career of this great Englishman.

As the present work is in the main a condensation of the original *Life*, it has been found possible to dispense altogether with references, save where fresh evidence is concerned; and such references have been relegated to the end of the volume.

For the benefit of readers who are not acquainted with the original work, it is here only necessary to state, in a few words, that the personal papers of the first Marquis passed into the hands of his granddaughters, co-heiresses of his son, the second and last Marquis. These included as their most important item two copies of a MS. containing Memoirs of his own Life, by the Marquis himself. Of these one copy is believed to have been burnt by his old friend, Lord Nottingham, the father-in-law of the second Marquis. The second was, it is said, destroyed in the eighteenth century, by one of his granddaughters, at the instance of the poet Pope, who considered them too critical of his own (the Roman Catholic) Church.

The remaining papers eventually passed by marriage into the custody of two great families, Devonshire and Spenser; whose representatives in 1897 most courteously and generously placed them at the disposal of the present writer. Permission to use the

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PREFACE

Coventry papers at Longleat was, in like manner, granted by the then Marquis of Bath.

In the present instance the writer is greatly indebted to Mr de Beer, who most kindly provided a complete list of the more recent works on the period, invaluable to one whose seventeenth-century researches have been unavoidably pretermitted since 1907. Sincere thanks are also due to His Grace the Duke of Devonshire for permission to include a reproduction of the fine portrait of Lord Halifax, now in his possession.

The judgements expressed in this work are not always those of 1897, some having been naturally matured and modified by the lessons of practical experience in the political field.

H. C. F.