

companion of her
Wyatt's sister, who,
er on the scaffold.
a parting gift, her
as, bound in gold,
in her hand from
ower till she com-
Mary always wore
e mysterious last
Thomas Wyatt, the
estly to Mrs. Mary

allow her eyes to
utioner approached
entering their bril-
beckoned to one of
e softly approached
ed by this subter-
e she heard the
blow of the Calais
guese spectator of
l being minded to
ees, and one of her

MSS.

Thomas Wyatt of Anne
which was carefully pre-
Anne Boleyn, and which
unfortunate queen to the
eaves of vellum, one inch
it contained a metrical
id, richly chased, with a
in 1721, by Mr. Vertue,
use-square. Such little
in the last year of her
Lee, has been mentioned
nd of Anne Boleyn, and
nce; but the memorials
re particularly mention
ven on the scaffold.
ded by a contemporary:
he Tower of London, of
f Calais."—Chronicle of
edited by John Gough
society.

ladies covered her eyes with a bandage; and then they with-
drew themselves some little space, and knelt down over against
the scaffold, bewailing bitterly and shedding many tears. And
thus, and without more to say or do, was her head struck off;
she making no confession of her fault, but saying, 'O Lord
God, have pity on my soul!'" This being the record of an
eye-witness, we think it is deserving of credit, and it agrees
with the dignified composure of Anne's behaviour on the
scaffold. Gratian says she died with great resolution, and so
sedately as to cover her feet with her garments, in like manner
as the Roman poet records of the royal Polyxena, when about
to be sacrificed at the tomb of Achilles. According to another
authority, her last words were, "*In manus tuas.*" "The
bloody blow came down from his trembling hand who gave
it," says Wyatt, "when those about her could not but seem
to themselves to have received it upon their own necks, she
not so much as shrinking at it." Spelman has noted, that
Anne Boleyn's eyes and lips were observed to move when her
head was held up by the executioner.³ It is also said, that
before those beautiful eyes sunk in the dimness of death, they
seemed for an instant mournfully to regard her bleeding body
as it fell on the scaffold.

It does not appear that the last moments of Anne were
disturbed by the presence of lady Boleyn and Mrs. Cosyns.
The gentler females who, like ministering angels, had followed
their royal mistress to her doleful prison and dishonouring
scaffold, half-fainting and drowned in tears as they were, sur-
rounded her mangled remains, now a spectacle appalling to
woman's eyes; yet they would not abandon them to the
ruffian hands of the executioner and his assistants, but, with
unavailing tenderness, washed away the blood from the lovely
face and glossy hair, that scarcely three years before had been
proudly decorated with the crown of St. Edward, and now,
but for these unbought offices of faithful love, would have
been lying neglected in the dust. Our Portuguese authority
informs us, "that one weeping lady took the severed head,

¹ Excerpta Historica; sir H. Nicolas.

² Leti.

³ Burnet's Hist. Reformation. Remarkable Trials.