

entertaining. Few will be found more adapted to awaken reflection than the history of the rise and fall of the noble family of Dudley.

Connected with many remarkable events in English history, the name will frequently be found in the pages of our historians; but there are some circumstances derived from family-papers, and local accounts that will probably give the following short sketch a title to be considered as an original memoir.

To begin with Edmund Dudley, descended from a younger branch of the ancient Lords Dudley; he became a favourite at the Court of Henry VII. and was, under that rapacious and stern, but politic and ungrateful, prince, one of the great instruments of oppression under which his subjects groaned. Henry's coffers were filled, and so were Dudley's; but he was at last given up by his sovereign to the resentment of the people, together with Empson, and was executed. His estate, however, was restored to his son: who, in the succeeding reigns of Henry VIII. and Edward VI. got highly into favour, and was created Viscount Lisle, Earl of Warwick, and Duke of Northumberland. Insatiable in his ambition, and persevering in his enmity and envy, he contrived to ruin the Duke of Somerset, and Lord Thomas his brother, the uncles of King Edward VI. and marrying his fourth son to lady Jane Seymour prevailed on that prince to appoint her his successor. The tragical fate of that amiable young queen (for queen she undoubtedly was as much as Richard III. was king, although she does not appear in the chronological tables of our sovereigns) and her consort, is well known; and here also ended the career of the ambitious Duke of Northumberland, who was beheaded by Queen Mary. On Elizabeth's accession the good for-