

the old school
There was one
the duke of York
in the 30th of
and assumed the
in fasting and
brance of the

hed to a young
ne Trelawney.
for whom she
fully influenced
as Sarah Jen-
e of the maids
had married a
ne assertion of
s the son of an
a gentleman;
her's side was
mystery who first
art; as for the
o her highness
allis,³ the best
to manuscript
ces and Sarah
ently large, at
ughters looked
mentioned with
ipping memoirs
er descendants
olland, corroborated
declined all business
ed by the Diary of
Anne.

orough.
i. p. 89. "Mrs.
wards became supe-
esent convent, then
mith, p. 242.
ion was attached to
Jennings. Count

in after-life, affirms "that she raised them out of the dirt." She was born at a small house at Holywell, near St. Albans, on the very day of Charles II.'s restoration, 1660; consequently she was four years older than the lady Anne of York. By her own account, she used to play with her highness and amuse her in her infancy, and thus fixed an empire over her mind from childhood. The princess Mary once told Sarah Churchill¹ a little anecdote of their girlhood, which they both agreed was illustrative of the lady Anne's character. The princesses were, in the days of their tutelage, walking together in Richmond-park, when a dispute arose between them whether an object they beheld at a great distance was a man or a tree,—the lady Mary being of the former opinion, the lady Anne of the latter. At last they came nearer, and lady Mary, supposing her sister must be convinced it was according to her view, cried out, "Now, Anne, you must be certain what the object is." But lady Anne turned away, and persisting in what she had once declared, cried, "No, sister; I still think it is a tree." The anecdote was told by Sarah Churchill long years afterwards, for the purpose of depreciating the character of her royal friend, as an instance of imbecile obstinacy, that refused acknowledgment of error on conviction; but, after all, candour might suggest that the focus of vision in one sister had more extensive range than in that of the other,—Mary being long-sighted, and Anne near-sighted. Indeed, the state of suffering from ophthalmia which the lady Anne endured in her childhood, gives probability to the more charitable supposition.

The first introduction of the royal sisters to court was by their performance of a ballet, written for them by the poet

Anthony Hamilton, whilst doing justice to the virtues and goodness of her elder daughter Frances, who had married into his own illustrious house, notices that "she did not learn her good conduct of her mother," and that this woman was not allowed to approach the court on account of her infamous character, although she had laid Charles II. under some mysterious obligation. As to the father of Frances and Sarah Jennings, no trace can be found of him in history, without he is the same major Jennings whose woful story is attested in Salmon's Examination of Burnet's History, p. 533.

¹ Cox MSS., vol. xlv. folios 90-92: inedited letter of the duchess of Marlborough to sir David Hamilton.