

## EARL OF NOTTINGHAM. 17

that the character, and conduct of the earl of Nottingham hath been placed in unfavourable points of view ; but, let it be remembered that the writer who reproached him was influenced by the violence of prejudice ; and that the rough, and martial behaviour of the heroes in the active service of Elizabeth was ill-suited to the stiff, and solemn air of those statesmen who composed the court of James, and to whom it was natural that Nottingham should appear disgusting (*f*). His actions are sufficient to silence envy, and to destroy the credit of malicious censurers. He who vanquished the Armada, equipped, in the space of fourteen days, a fleet sufficient to maintain the sovereignty of the ocean, and, by his presence alone (*g*), dispirited the adherents of the earl of *Essex*, must have been an extraordinary man, although we should grant that he had enemies, was not learned, expressed himself somewhat bluntly, and, notwithstanding his exalted rank, betrayed almost a total ignorance of those arts which howsoever common, are yet disgraceful in the courts of princes.

(*f*) See a letter from the earl of Northampton, to Sir Charles Cornwallis, ambassador to the court of Spain. Winwood's Memorials, v. 2. p. 91.

(*g*) The idea of the gallant Essex, and his associates, intimidated by the presence alone of Nottingham, is too extravagant. In the heat of panegyric, Mr. Campbell, like a multitude of encomiasts, seems to have trespassed on probability.