A VISIT TO THE UNITED PROVINCES AND CLEVES IN THE TIME OF WILLIAM III

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On 5th September 1696 the "sober, wise & virtuous" Sir Robert Southwell (1635-1702), secretary of state for Ireland and an experienced diplomat, who had recently been president of the Royal Society and was a friend of Evelyn, wrote from his country house at Kings Weston near Bristol to William Cole: "My son after 4 Months absence in the Camp and over all the Townes of Brabant and Holland and the Brandenbourg Court at Cleves, came happily to Us on thursday night. Soe as now wee are all cheerfully together".

The traveller was Edward Southwell (1671-1730), who after being educated at home and at Oxford had, as a "doctissimus juvenis", been sworn an extraordinary clerk to the privy council in 1693 and in 1695 had been joined with two others in the office of chief prothonotary of the common pleas in Ireland. In 1699 he was to become a full clerk to the privy council. He later held other official posts. In 1720 he himself became secretary of state for Ireland. During at least part of his journey this intelligent and well-educated young man kept a diary, known from a copy, or partial copy, now in the British Museum (Add. MS. 21,495), the greater part of whose surviving text is published here. Nowhere does Southwell's name appear in the document, but there is no

1 British Museum, London, Add. MS. 18,599, fo. 53v.
2 For the careers of both Edward Southwell and his father see their biographies in the Dictionary of National Biography, London 1885-1903. The words describing Sir Robert Southwell, which are Evelyn's, are quoted from E. S. de Beer, The Diary of John Evelyn, Oxford 1955, Vol. IV, 203; for letters from Sir Robert Southwell asking for Evelyn's advice concerning the gardens at Kings Weston see British Museum, Add. MS. 15,858, fo. 155-161.
3 The text is written in sepia ink in a clear hand on pages about 23.8 cm. high by 18 cm. wide. The binding, which bears the bookplate of Pymme's Library inside the front cover, is of later date than the manuscript itself. Grateful acknowledgement is made to the Trustees of the British Museum for permission to publish parts of the journal and also two of its drawings (reproduced in Pls. 1 and 2).
reason to doubt his authorship. The attribution is supported by internal evidence and by the hand in which the work is written, as well as by the letter quoted above.

Southwell is mentioned as the author, with a reference to the letter of 1696, in a pencil note by Frederick Maddon on the manuscript’s fly-leaf. Events referred to in the diary make it clear that the journey described was made in that year. William Blathwayte, with whom the traveller associated (see below), was a friend of Sir Robert Southwell. The hand in which the text is written, which is unlike that of Edward Southwell himself, is apparently identical with that in which many of Sir Robert Southwell’s letters of the period are written: it seems, that of a clerk who served him for many years (for comparisons see for example the Southwells’ letters in British Museum Add. MSS.