

John Sadler
(ob. 1595?)

**PREFACE TO VEGETIUS,
MARTIAL POLICYE
[LONDON: 1572]**

After I had first taken in hande (righte Honourable and my singular good Lorde) the translation of this worthy and famous writer Flavius Vegetius, at the request of the right worshipfull sir Edmonde Brudenell knight: I thought I should have had no further labour, but that the sayd translation being so diligently and plainlye handled according to the authors meaning, as my simple wit and knowledge could do it, should have contented and satisfied the sayde Sir Edmonde onelye for his own private use and readinge. But he beinge a man alwayes studious, not so muche to pleasure himselfe, as to benefite his countrie, and also desyrous to make all men partakers of such commoditye, as he himselfe alone, or a fewe besides him, might take by readinge of the same: did afterwarde purpose to cause the sayde worke to be printed. And althoughe the rude and simple translation thereof, might worthelye have withdrawn him from his sayde intente: yet neverthesse consideringe what profitable thinges are therein contayned: how wyse and prudent counsels for all governours and Captaynes are there declared: how expedient and necessary the knowledge of these thinges may be for all times and seasons, and especially for this time wherein we now do live: he thoughte it better to cause the sayde worke to be openlye set forth and published, although in a very base and homelye style, then that this worthy author, whom not onelye the Italians, Almaines and Frenchmen, but also many other Nations, have most diligentlye translated in their owne peculiar languages, should any longer be hidde and kepte from all his native countrie men: Gevinge thereby occasion to such as shall thinke the sayd work to homelye and baselye handled, being yet, as it were, but hewen out of the rough, to plane and polish the same, if they will be disposed more curioslye, and to set it forth with finer and purer eloquence. Whiche thinge so much the better may be done, that the Ise is now cut up before, and the way made open, which at the first might seeme more harde and daungerous to passe. The weaker that any thing doth appeare, the more expedient and necessarye it is to seke for helpe and succour for the same: the more simple that this translation is, the more neede it hath of sure protection and defence. Wherefore when as sir

Edmonde Brudenell, the chiefe causer and doer in settinge forth of this worke, had conferred together with me as concerning the publishing hereof, and had not yet determined to whom chiefely it might most conveniently be dedicated: your honour amongst al others came to our remembrance, for many and sundry causes, as most worthy of so excellent and passinge knowledge therein contained: Not that these thinges maye seeme unknowen to your honour, but being overseene perused and allowed of the same, might more safely come abroade and thereby deserve the better favour and acceptation of all the Readers thereof: as allowed of him, whose noble actes as wel within the Realme as without on every syde, have always from time to time so well appeared. Pleaseth it your honour therefore to accept in good parte this homelye and simple worke, offered by us of very true and hartye love: on sir Edmond's behalfe, as a declaration of the inwarde and unfayned goodwill that he doth beare towardes your honour: and on my behalfe as a testimoniall both of like good will, and also of my verye bounden dutye: which nowe manye yeares latelye passed, have received a liberall annuitye or stipende of your honoure, whereby I have bene the better able to expresse suche poore knowledge as I had, or atleast my good will, not onelye in setting forth of this present worke, but also in that trade, which I have professed a long time, as I trust to the honour of Almightye God, and also to the benefite and profit of my country. And whereas here I have communicated the settinge forth of this treatyse with him that hath bene the only and chiefe occasion of first takinge the same in hand, I thinke he maye of verye righte challenge the greatest commendation thereof (if anye be) who ayded mee not onelye wyth his good advyce, but also wyth Bookes, which elswhere I could not have had for the accomplishment of the saide translation. And to speake unfaynedlye my owne labour and travayle can loke for no manner of prayse at all, excepte peradventure the onlye commendation of painfull and faythfull diligence, whiche as Vegetius sayth himselfe, is here more requisite, then elegancye and finenes of wordes: not addyng thereunto anye thinge of myne owne, after the maner of a Paraphrast to dilate the matter more at large wyth a curious and eloquent stile: but using onelye the office of a translatour, plainlye and compendiouslye expressing so neare as I could, the true sense and meaning of the Author. Wherefore if this my endeavour maye be accepted of your honour, I thinke it a greater commendation, then eyther I can deserve or iustlye looke for: as thereby much boldened and encouraged to take like paynes hereafter, if good and meete occasion may serve thereunto.

From Oundell the first daye of October 1571

Your honours most humble, faythfull and continuall Oratoure:
