

Now for the trouble which I am about to im-
pose upon your inexhaustible goodness. May
some great blunder - which I can only explain by
the confusion of books & papers here, & a MS. copy
in my dear Father's hand, of Symonds's Diary of
the Army under Charles I. & among some old &
waste Music which I took to London to sell, and
which I left for that purpose at Messrs. Puttick
& Simpers, 47 Leicester Square - I had not the
least suspicion of the mistake, when this morning
"pro forma" they send me a cutting from their print-
ed Catalogue, to know if they are to sell without re-
serve - & there - to my utter surprise, stands

A MS. Copy of Symonds's Diary! -
As the Sale is tomorrow, there was not a post to
lose - I wrote to stop the sale - & in my full de-

pendence upon your good-nature as usual, ventured
to tell them that my friend Mr. Ranyard would call
for it before long. -

The Lib is numbered 396 in the sale of May
25, & is catalogued as "Manuscript Diary of
Richard Symonds, transcribed from the Harleian
MS. B. giving an account of the progress of
Cromwell's Army" -

(Which it does not do, by the way, Symonds
having been a gentleman in attendance upon Char-
I.) The MS. would not be worth much trouble
in reclaiming, as having been already printed by the
Camden Soc^y - excepting for certain illustrated sket-
ches, which my dear Father copied, but which strangely
enough have been omitted in the Camden reprint.

Believe me, my dear Aunt Arthur,
your very affectionate friend
J. W. Webb.