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CELEBRITIES OF THE CENTUR

BEING

A Dictionary of Men and Women

OF THE

Nineteenth Century.

EDITED BY

LLOYD C. SANDERS.

NEW AND REVISED EDITION.

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PREFACE.

THE present publication attempts to make good a real deficiency—existing at any rate in this country—namely, that of a fairly adequate and exhaustive Dictionary of Recent and Contemporary Biography, including foreign as well as national celebrities. The greater lights of the century have been treated with some fulness; in the case of those of minor importance, it was unnecessary to do more than give a concise summary of the leading events of their lives. Again, the introduction of contemporaries necessarily implied two standards of criticism. In their case the aim has been to make the articles something better than mere strings of facts and dates, while avoiding on the one hand flippant expressions of individual opinions, on the other empty eulogy.

A few words as to the scope and arrangement of the book. It was of course inevitable, where a purely arbitrary frontier line, such as that of the century, was selected, that there should be a considerable number of subjects lying partly within and partly without it. As a rule those who merely survived the year 1800, without making any material addition to the landmarks of their lives, have been altogether excluded, or treated with great brevity; even in cases like those of Fox and Pitt, the earlier part of their career has been shortly summarised. Within the compass of eleven hundred pages of a moderate size, utility rather than completeness was the object chiefly kept in view. In drawing up the lists of names, the wants of the average reader were consulted as far as possible, and an effort was made to avoid serious omissions by a diligent consultation of standard works and the catalogue of the British Museum. Also, inasmuch as the world has not stood still while the work was in progress, care has been taken in the case of living men to include occurrences of consequence down to the eve of going to press. In order to give a connected idea of the leading facts in the annals of minor nationalities, their potentates have been treated under the heading of the country over which they rule. Thus, the article on "Egypt, The Khedives of," may be of some value as a commentary on what has taken place in that country within the last few years. To save the reader the trouble of hunting up and down the book, authors who have written under a *nom de plume* of European celebrity, such as George Eliot,

George Sand, and Mark Twain, are dealt with under the title by which they have chosen to be known to the world at large. Living people are indicated by an asterisk.

Such value as this volume may be found to possess, is due for the most part to the able staff of contributors who have given it their invaluable aid, and have constantly supplied useful suggestions and much zealous co-operation. To all of them the Editor renders his most grateful thanks, but especially to Mr. H. W. Nevinson, B.A., who has been his right-hand man throughout, and given him much sound advice upon matters on which he was insufficiently informed. His thanks are also due to the great band of men of mark who have been kind enough to give information about themselves, or to revise the notices that were sent to them. The Editor has met with few refusals, and the ready courtesy of his correspondents has made his labours far lighter than they would have been otherwise.