

THE LIFE
OF
HENRY JOHN TEMPLE
VISCOUNT PALMERSTON.
1846-1865.

VOLUME I.



VISCOUNT PALMERSTON.

THE LIFE
OF
HENRY JOHN TEMPLE,
VISCOUNT PALMERSTON:
1846-1865.

WITH SELECTIONS FROM

His Speeches and Correspondence.

BY

THE HON. EVELYN ASHLEY, M.P.

VOLUME I.



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PREFACE.

THE period reached by Lord Dalling's work forms the starting-point of the present volume, and my object in the pages which follow has been to chronicle the events of the last twenty years of Lord Palmerston's life, with his policy, opinions, and acts, in a plain but intelligible manner, and with a due regard to brevity. It is not easy to convey a truthful knowledge, and impossible to convey a full knowledge, of so near a past while present susceptibilities still exist and demand consideration. Nor could proper brevity be secured except by omitting much in the way of explanatory statement which some may look for, but which ought not to be needed; for though, according to Guizot, the history of the day before yesterday is the least known and the most forgotten by the public of to-day, still the general facts of this period must be familiar to the greater number of educated persons. Besides, I have

sought to make contemporary letters and documents, as far as possible, tell the story, believing this mode of conveying information to be most interesting, as it naturally must be most truthful. This is to an unusual degree the case with Lord Palmerston's letters, which are so gay, unaffected, and to the point, and so free from everything artificial, that they very accurately reflect his personal character as well as the impressions of the moment. He had, besides, so practical a mind that his "written talk" about the politics of his day has a real value for men engaged in public affairs. To such I commend it.

E. A.

CHAPTER VI.

	PAGE
LETTERS—GENERAL HAYNAU AT BARCLAY'S BREWERY— ECCLESIASTICAL TITLES BILL—NATIONAL DEFENCES— MR. GLADSTONE'S LETTERS ABOUT NEAPOLITAN PRISONS —IONIAN ISLANDS—DEFENCE IN PARLIAMENT—QUES- TION OF "HOLY PLACES"	228

CHAPTER VII.

REMOVAL FROM THE GOVERNMENT—EXPLANATIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS	280
---	-----

CHAPTER VIII.

FALL OF THE RUSSELL ADMINISTRATION—LORD DERBY'S GOVERNMENT—DISSOLUTION—SPEECHES AT TIVERTON AND LEWES—LETTERS—DEFEAT OF THE DERBY CABINET	333
--	-----