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PREFATORY NOTE.

IN preparing short memoirs of statesmen who have so recently departed from among us that no complete Lives of them have yet been written, the writer who travels beyond those records of their actions which are supplied by ordinary books of reference, reviews, and newspapers, can rely only on such communications as friends or relatives may be willing to contribute without prejudice to the claims of the future biographer, for whom, of course, all papers and correspondence possessing any real value are most properly reserved. In the case of men whose careers have been thoroughly explored, the author of a volume like the present has nothing to do but to reproduce what is already known in as concise and popular a style as he is able to command, or, in other words, to reduce a life-size portrait to a miniature. I do not mean to say that, even so, the task is an easy one; but it can be done in a library; the author has all his materials before him; and knows

from the beginning exactly what he has got to put into the book which he is writing. But in default of such accessible knowledge, he has to do all his work for himself. Many applications must be made, with the fear of being considered troublesome constantly before his eyes; and in all his intercourse, even with the most communicative, he will find that there are many inquiries which he cannot push beyond a certain point. I, myself, have experienced nothing but kindness and courtesy from such relatives and colleagues of the late Lord Derby as I was in a position to address; yet I cannot help feeling that the book is still imperfect, though with the assistance I have received it should at least be free from error.

From those who acted with Lord Derby in public life I have received some political information of considerable interest; and I am particularly indebted to Admiral Wyndham Hornby, who lived with Lord Derby nearly thirty years on terms of the closest intimacy, for numerous anecdotes of his conduct and his habits in private life, which, even when I have not been permitted to repeat them, have formed ingredients in my general estimate of Lord Derby's character. I have to thank the Hon. F. S. Layley for the few facts which I have given belonging to Lord Derby's connection with the turf; and also for one or two amusing stories, in which the part assigned to Lord Derby is said by those who knew him best to be so extremely characteristic of him that no apology is required for inserting them. Last, but

not least, I may mention my friend Mr. E. Walford, whose collection of notes have been most serviceable.

The published works from which information is to be obtained, independently of periodical literature, are the Croker Papers, the Correspondence of William the Fourth and Lord Grey; the Greville Memoirs, which, however, must be read with caution; the Life of Lord Lyndhurst, by Sir Theodore Martin; Lord Malmesbury's Diary in "Memoirs of an Ex-Minister"; the Life of Lord Melbourne, by Mr. M'Cullagh Torrens; the Life of Lord Palmerston, by Lord Dalling and the Hon. Evelyn Ashley; the Life of the Prince Consort; the Dispatches of the Duke of Wellington; and the Life of Bishop Wilberforce. But it must be remembered that I come before, not after, the *vates sacer*, whoever he may be, who is destined to give us a full and perfect portraiture of the great Patrician, to sound all the depths and shallows of his very blended character, and to show the man as he really was, stripped of all conventionalities.

T. E. K.

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