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To the Memory

OF

A ZEALOUS COLLEAGUE, AND A LAMENTED
FRIEND,

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PREFACE.

THE object and composition of this little work require a few words of explanation.

It is intended as a text-book for a course of lectures upon the momentous period of transition, which connects mediæval with modern history.

My first design was simply to translate so much of M. Michelet's able and lucid *Précis de l'Histoire Moderne* as relates to that period: but I soon felt that more was needed, even in such a text-book, than that author had supplied.

The Reformation forms the great historical question of the period over which this manual extends.

This momentous Revolution in itself demands a most minute analysis and many-sided survey, ere its true significance can be understood.

An Indian pupil, as ignorant of Christianity, as he is ill-adapted by circumstances, if not by

nature, to appreciate a great public contest of political or religious *principle*, will experience difficulties on the threshold of the inquiry, such as would never beset an European of average attainments.

Yet if history is not to be degraded into a mere chronicle of external events, and historical instruction into a pure waste of time and trouble, or a vain and pestilent display of memorial pedantry ; it is very necessary that here, as elsewhere, the student of the world's annals should aspire and strive to overcome the obstacles which attend each step of his progress, and thereby to gain an insight into the *spirit* of successive ages, diverse communities, memorable events.

I invariably endeavour, in lecturing, to facilitate this result as far as possible.

But agreeing with Horace that, in certain cases, and with a *thoughtful* reader at least, (and if history neither finds nor makes a youth thoughtful, the sooner he abandons it for some menial occupation the better),

“ Segnius irritant animos demissa per aurem,

“ Quam quæ sunt oculis subjecta fidelibus,”

I deemed it highly advisable to incorporate in the manual itself a body of information explanatory of the origin, and general character,

especially the political and social tendency, of the Reformation, which might be perused at leisure, and save me the necessity of commencing *ab ovo*.

This I have therefore sought to do in the Appendices. The selection and preparation of some of the extracts contained in this portion of the book has cost me more trouble and thought than would be apparent at first sight, to those at least not acquainted with the original works.

In the two first Appendices the words are almost invariably those of the authors quoted; the arrangement only, and the marginal analysis, mostly my own.

For the third Appendix I am myself solely responsible, as well as for the Chapter on England under Henry VIII. and Edward VI., which I re-wrote.

So much space has been devoted to the English Reformation, because to Indian students the history of England is pre-eminently important.

Unless they are familiarised with the real import of those great convulsions, amidst which our national character and polity have been developed, they cannot hope to understand, much less to assimilate, our civilisation; to

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