LOCAL GOVERNMENT

AND

TAXATION

IN THE

UNITED KINGDOM.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

A Series of Essays

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PREFACE.

In 1875 the Cobden Club published a volume of Essays upon Local Government by different writers, giving some account of its rise and of its working both in our own and in various foreign countries. Since that time the question has grown in importance, until it now stands in the very fore-front of our practical politics. Indeed, the present Government, of which Mr. Gladstone is the Prime Minister, has declared it to be one upon which legislative action must be taken at the earliest possible date. The Committee of the Cobden Club is therefore glad that it is able to publish a fresh volume of Essays dealing with the question of "Local Government and Taxation in the United Kingdom." The Committee has been fortunate in securing for this purpose the services of able men, who have respectively dealt with different branches of this most important subject. The writers do not, of course, pretend to have treated exhaustively the various portions of it severally dealt with by them. It would have been impossible to do so within the limits, necessarily restricted, of such a volume as the present. But it may with truth be said that the writers have contributed much, both-
by their careful statement of facts and by their practical suggestions, towards enabling their readers to understand what is the actual condition of Local Government and Taxation in Great Britain and Ireland, as well as to form some idea, at any rate, of the reforms of which our present system, or rather want of system, stands so greatly in need.

January, 1882.

J. W. PROBYN.
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By the Honourable George C. Brodrick.

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Dec., 1881.

George C. Brodrick.
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