

PREFACE

THIS book was written during the Parliamentary recess of 1911, but owing to the writer's illness its publication was unavoidably delayed. Chapters XVI and XXI have been added, but no substantial change has been made in the original text of the other chapters. My readers will kindly observe that I have not followed the course of party politics in the House of Commons beyond my retirement in 1883, except so far as was necessary to complete a character sketch of the leaders on the stage at that time, or of their probable successors. My references to Provincial politics, for obvious reasons, close with the change of Government in 1905.

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