

to use to their own advantage, if not to his destruction. A casual conversation with a friend, whose mind tenaciously retained all recent impressions made by the partial statements of the enemies of the Pope, and the traducers of his government, but from which every recollection of the events of 1848 and 1849 had utterly faded, determined me to carry out this resolution, and commence the volume with a personal and historical sketch of the career of Pius IX. This I have done at greater length than I had at first intended, but perhaps not so fully as the nature of the subject required. At any rate, I trust I have done sufficient to enable the reader to behold, in his true character, one of the best of men, and most beneficent of rulers; and to estimate, at their right value, the accusations which have been made against him, as a reformer of the one day, and a reactionist of the next.

The letters to which, as I have said, this volume owes its origin, I have but sparingly used; or where I have used them, I have added to them considerably,—so as to render each of the more important subjects as full as I could afford to make it in a single volume. For instance, I have devoted a considerable portion of the book to a sketch of the Educational institutions of Rome,—a subject respecting which much misconception exists in these countries.