

P R E F A C E

THE aim of the writer of this "Life" has been to narrate those incidents which tend most to reveal the personal history and character of the Queen, and no attempt has been made to deal with the events of her reign which belong more to the historian than to the personal biographer. In writing of one so illustrious and far removed from ordinary acquaintance and observation, the difficulties of faithful portraiture are apparent; but the frank manner in which Her Majesty has revealed the details of her domestic life in Sir Theodore Martin's "Life of the Prince Consort," the two volumes of "Leaves from Our Journal in the Highlands," and the "Memoir of Princess Alice," makes the task easier. In addition to these sources of information, I am indebted to the "Greville Memoirs," the "Life of Baron Stockmar," Lady Bloomfield's "Reminiscences," the Bunsen and Malmesbury "Memoirs," and