

The public life of Lord Sydenham, indeed, offers a rare, perhaps an unexampled, instance of the rapid attainment of eminent station by the force of personal qualifications alone. Without any peculiar advantages of birth, rank, fortune, or connexion, by the unaided exertions of his talents, industry, and tact, he had, before the age of forty, sat for fifteen years in Parliament—ten of them as the spontaneously selected representative of the great manufacturing capital of the country, Manchester—had been minister of state ten years, in the Cabinet five, and occupied the station of Governor-General of all the British North American Colonies; being rewarded for his brilliant administration of this high office by a Peerage and the order of the Bath.

Such a career cannot but be well worthy of study, whether by those who themselves are struggling forward in the pursuit of fame, wealth, and honour, or those who are contented to contemplate as by-standers the busy drama in which the million are toiling for these objects. Still more worthy of close study is such a life, if it can be shown, as in this instance it unquestionably can, that the main-spring of exertions thus arduous and successful was neither barren ambition, nor the vain lust of