

Preface

who make history—the great statesmen and writers of the reign!

Since 1887 the author has read many works relating to her late Majesty. In these pages, however, he has relied upon the *Greville Memoirs* for the first period of the reign, and afterwards, up to 1861, upon Sir Theodore Martin's *Biography of the Prince Consort* (Smith, Elder, & Co., popular edition), while later he has chiefly depended upon *Lord Malmesbury's Memoirs* (Longman & Co.), and for the facts relating to the Disestablishment of the Irish Church to the *Life of Archbishop Tait* (Macmillan & Co.). The other authorities he has referred to are, he hopes and believes, all duly noted in the pages of this volume, wherever they are cited.

In dealing with the life of the Queen, the author confines himself almost entirely to the working part of it. He has done this for the benefit