

TOMLINE'S ESTIMATE OF PITT

THE question of who should be Mr. Pitt's biographer engaged the anxious attention of his friends almost from the moment of his death. We know of several competitors. Henry Mackenzie, the author of "The Man of Feeling," who enjoyed a literary reputation which it is not easy to understand, was approached by some friends of his own. Lord Lowther, a devoted friend of the Minister, named a Mr. Stonard, a private tutor residing at Chertsey, and his nomination was approved by Lady Hester Stanhope. But Mr. Stonard's ultimate output seems to have consisted entirely of theological works, such as a commentary on the vision of Zechariah and a dissertation on the seventy weeks of Daniel, which seem to indicate but little the successful biographer of a statesman. Charles Long, Lord Farnborough, had some thoughts of doing the work himself. But all watched Tomline with vigilant and gloomy forebodings. They feared that he would undertake the task and that the result would be tedious and insufficient. Their anxieties were soon set at rest. Within six weeks of Pitt's death the Bishop had announced his intention of writing his life. Mulgrave, who entertained for Pitt the feelings of a brother, expressed his "doubt of the Bishop giving to the work the necessary brilliancy and animation of style which should distinguish the biography of so illustrious a character, a