

PREFACE.

MY FATHER'S words alone have been used in the composition of the following pages. The materials in my hands consisted of an Autobiography, begun in 1842, the year after he left the bar, and carried on at intervals to the year 1847; a Journal, in which he made occasional entries from 1847 down to the year of his death; and a series of letters to his Father and his Brother from the time he left Scotland, at the age of eighteen, till the respective deaths of his two correspondents. From these sources I have endeavored to form a complete narrative, using the Memoirs or the Letters according as each seemed to tell the story best.

My chief difficulty has been to make such selections and omissions as were necessary to keep the work within reasonable limits; and if, at first, these may seem to have been exceeded, it should be remembered that my Father lived till he was nearly eighty-two, without having had one day of retirement or idleness; that from the time he came to London, in the year 1798, he began to watch and to record political events; and that for the last thirty years of his life he was constantly employed in important public duties.

All remarks or comments of my own I have avoided, feeling that it would be unbecoming in me to bestow either praise or