

x THE LIFE OF WILLIAM COBBETT

John Selby Watson published an interesting study of the man; and eight years later Mr. Edward Smith issued a two-volume biography. Mr. Robert Waters prefixed a memoir to his edition of Cobbett's *English Grammar* (1883); and lastly, in 1904, Mr. E. I. Carlyle published his scholarly *William Cobbett: A Study of his Life as Shown in his Writings*. None of these writers, it may be remarked, have made any considerable use of Cobbett's correspondence.

To all previous writers on Cobbett, I am, in varying degrees, indebted; and I freely acknowledge the assistance I have derived from the excellent bibliography appended to Mr. Carlyle's monograph. I owe very sincere thanks to Sir William Cobbett and Mr. Richard Cobbett for their invaluable and generous assistance; to Mr. John Murray for his courteous permission to print in this work Cobbett's letters to Creevey, Fawkes, and Lord Folkestone from the *Creevey Papers*; and to Mr. Stanley Lathbury for the loan of letters to which reference has been made. Mr. Edward Smith has very kindly read the proofs of this work; and Mr. Richard Cobbett and Mr. A. M. Broadley have kindly lent prints for reproduction.

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LEWIS MELVILLE.

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HERTS.

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