# **BURKE**

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Burke by John Viscount Morley

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## **JOHN VISCOUNT MORLEY**

# **BURKE**



### Edition de Luxe

### THE WORKS

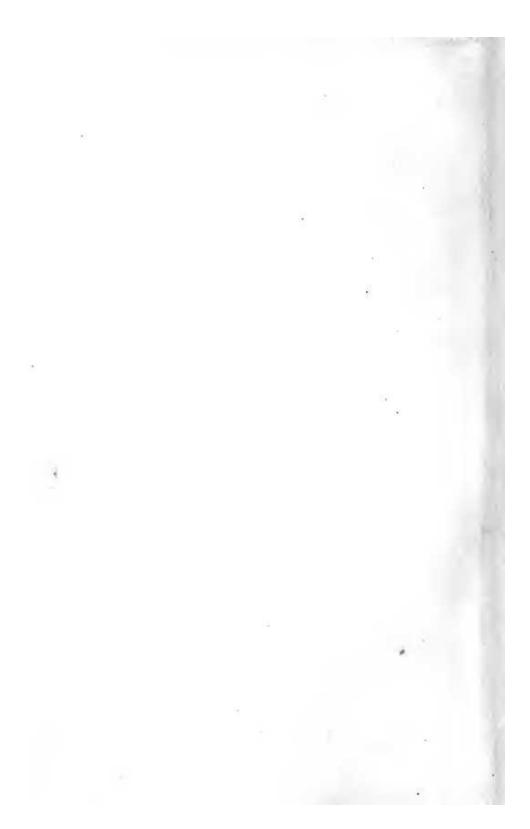
OF

## LORD MORLEY

IN

FIFTEEN VOLUMES

VOLUME XIV



8648

## BURKE

BY

JOHN VISCOUNT MORLEY

MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED ST. MARTIN'S STREET, LONDON

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### CHAPTER I

#### EARLY LIFE, AND FIRST WRITINGS

It will soon be a hundred and twenty years since Burke first took his seat in the House of Commons, and it is eighty-five years since his voice ceased to be heard there. Since his death, as during his life, opinion as to the place to which he is entitled among the eminent men of his country has touched every extreme. Tories have extolled him as the saviour of Europe. Whigs have detested him as the destroyer of his party. One undiscriminating panegyrist calls him the most profound and comprehensive of political philosophers that has yet existed in the world. Another and more distinguished writer insists that he is a resplendent and far-seeing rhetorician, rather than a deep and subtle thinker. A third tells us that his works cannot be too much our study, if we mean either to understand or to maintain against its various enemies, open and concealed, designing and

<sup>1</sup> Written in 1867.

Note.—The present writer published a study on Burke some twenty years ago. It was almost entirely critical, and in no sense a narrative. The volume that is now submitted to my readers first appeared in the series of English Men of Letters. It is biographical rather than critical, and not more than about a score of pages have been reproduced in it from the earlier book. Three pages have been inserted from an article on Burke contributed by me to the new edition of the Encyclopactia Britannica; and I have to thank Messrs. Black for the great courtesy with which they have allowed me to transcribe the passage here. These borrowings from my former self, the reader will perhaps be willing to excuse, on the old Greek principle that a man may once say a thing as he would have it said, \delta is \delta e \delta k \text{it} \delta \delta \delta k \delta \delta \delta k \delta \delta \delta k \delta k \delta \delta \delta k \delta k \delta \delta k \delt