

**A ROYAL ROAD: BEING THE
HISTORY OF THE LONDON &
SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY,
FROM 1825 TO THE PRESENT TIME**

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A Royal Road: Being the History of the London & South Western Railway, from 1825 to the Present Time by Sam Fay

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SAM FAY

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P R E F A C E .

Encouraged by the favour accorded the following pages by my fellows in the South Western Company's service, and whom I cannot sufficiently thank for their support, I venture to launch *A ROYAL ROAD* upon the more trying waters that lie outside the pale of railway life.

In introducing this history to the reader, I may say that I have striven, and I trust successfully, to compile not only a record of the struggles, triumphs and defeats to which one of the oldest and most important railway companies in England has been subject, but also a biographical sketch of past responsible officials, together with a description of the various appliances at their disposal for the manipulation of traffic.

If this, my first attempt at authorship, should serve only to rescue from oblivion the names and acts of those who helped to build up a great railway system, my object will have been attained; and if it should in any measure create greater public interest in our iron roads and those who conduct them, I shall be amply rewarded for those hours of leisure devoted to its compilation.

SAM FAY.

Traffic Department,
Kingston-on-Thames Station,
September, 1888.