

**SIR ROBERT PEEL:
AN HISTORICAL
SKETCH**

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Sir Robert Peel: An Historical Sketch by Henry Lord Dalling and Bulwer

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HENRY LORD DALLING AND BULWER

**SIR ROBERT PEEL:
AN HISTORICAL
SKETCH**

SIR ROBERT PEEL.

In Historical Sketch.

By ^{BY} HENRY, LORD DALLING AND BULWER,
AUTHOR OF 'HISTORICAL CHARACTERS,' ETC.

Edited by *Henry Bulwer*



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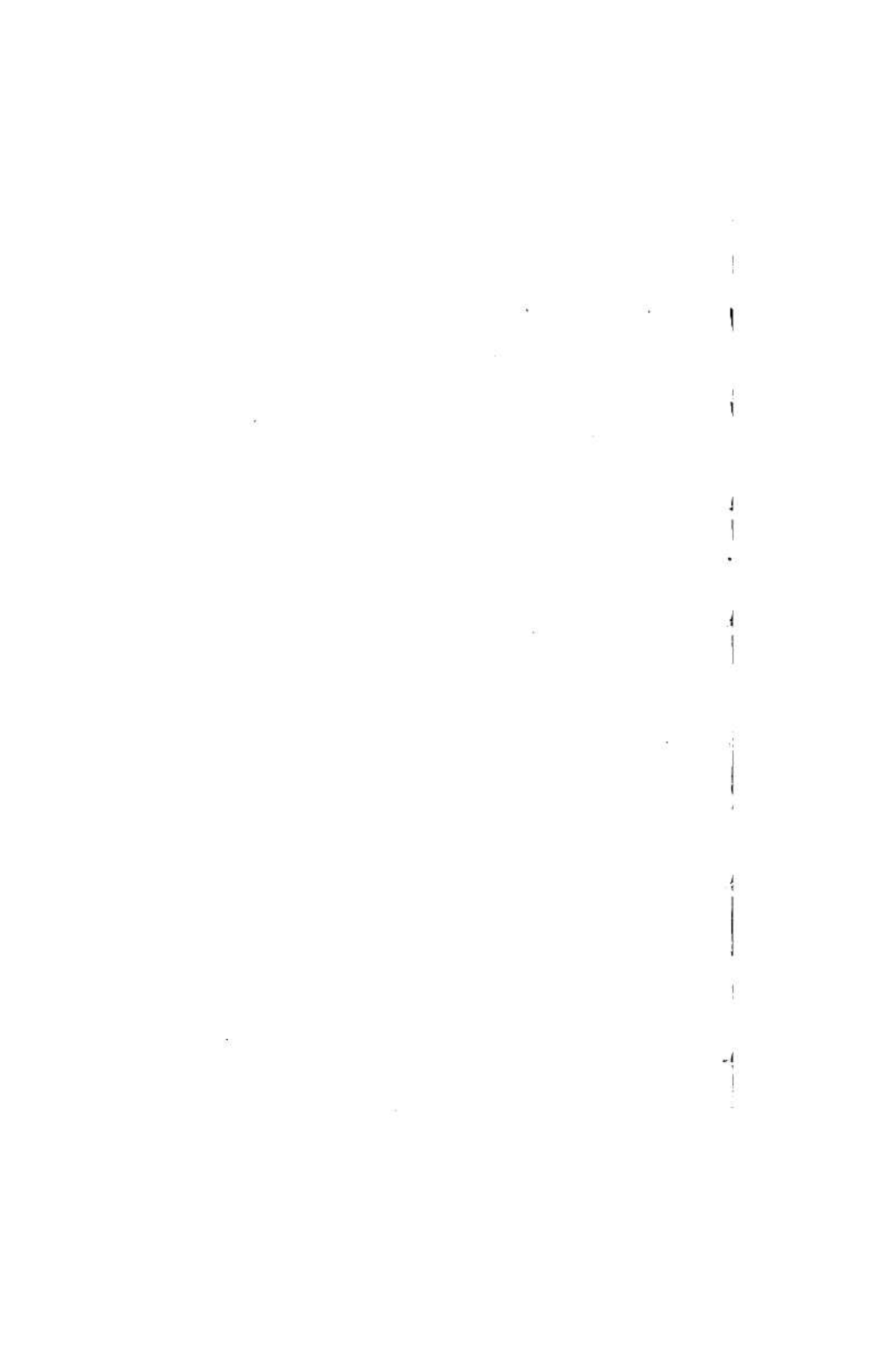
PREFATORY NOTE.

SOME delay has arisen in giving to the public the latest historical sketch which occupied the thoughts of Lord Dalling. It was hoped that amongst his voluminous papers would be found his estimate of Lafayette, and his sketch of Lord Melbourne. Lord Dalling had collected material for these sketches, but, except in the case of Lord Melbourne, he had worked very little upon them, and the brief sketch of Lord Melbourne seems to be the production of a much earlier period, and scarcely worthy to be added to his 'Historical Characters.'

It may not be out of place here to remark the infinite pains which Lord Dalling took in the preparation of these sketches. He offered to the public no crude work, but one of which both conception and execution were the result of mature thought. Whole pages after being set up would be printed again and again, and he would spend a morning sometimes in giving more finish to the style of a few paragraphs. He resembled a great painter in being unwilling to part with his work, and carried it about with him from place to place, that he might be able to obey the inspiration of the moment, and add to it those felicitous touches which give such value to his labours.

GEORGE BENTLEY.

NEW BURLINGTON STREET.
October 21, 1874.



P R E F A C E.

THERE are many circumstances which render the character and life of the late Sir Robert Peel at this moment peculiarly interesting. They are a complement to the life and character of Mr. Canning, which we lately had before us. They, moreover, not only represent the intellect and genius of an individual, but of an epoch; and the types of men living at particular periods afford the best studies of history.

Homer is in this respect the great historian of his age, for all his men are types of his age: as in many respects they are of every age. Mr. Bagehot, in one of his admirable essays, has called the statesman with whom we are about to occupy ourselves "the business gentleman." We think, however, that he may more particularly be put forward as "the practical man." He opposed everything which at such a day or year was impracticable; he supported and carried through

almost every great question of his day, when it became practical. He did not say that this thing or that was good before opinion was prepared for its being carried. He took it up and carried it, if it were good—when it could be carried. In opposing or supporting it he gave you practical reasons for his support or opposition.

His views, it has been said justly, were never remarkable: his abilities were always conspicuous. People of this disposition abound; but there is no one who represents it so strikingly. He is consequently the person to whom we are now constantly referring, when a conduct similar to that which he pursued is under judgment.

For all these reasons we offer no apology for a sketch in which we do not venture to affirm we shall say anything very new, but in which we hope to comprise almost everything that has been said, and is worth repeating.

SIR ROBERT PEEL.



PART I.