

**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
SIR HENRY
ENFIELD ROSCOE; A
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

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The Right Honourable Sir Henry Enfield Roscoe; a biographical sketch by Sir Edward Thorpe

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SIR EDWARD THORPE

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SIR HENRY ENFIELD ROSCOE
P.C., D.C.L., F.R.S.



Henry S. Roscoe

The Right Honourable
Sir Henry Enfield Roscoe

P.G., D.G.L., F.R.S.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

BY

SIR EDWARD THORPE, C.B., F.R.S.

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THIS sketch of the life and activities of Sir Henry Enfield Roscoe is based, to a large extent, upon an obituary notice prepared at the request of the Councils of the Royal and Chemical Societies, of which its subject was a distinguished member, with a view to publication in their respective *Proceedings* and *Transactions*. In its present more extended form it is offered to a wider public as the record of "a life in civic action worn," and as a slight tribute from a grateful pupil, an attached co-worker, and a lifelong friend to the memory of a strenuous high-minded man, of large aims and generous impulses, who spent his abilities and energies unstintingly in promoting the welfare of science and the good of his kind.

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THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR HENRY ENFIELD ROSCOE

CHAPTER I

WILLIAM ROSCOE—HENRY ROSCOE

THE subject of this memoir had no particular pride of ancestry. *Stemmata quid faciunt?* Although with no convictions on the subject, he was willing to believe that his line stretched at least as far back as Adam and Eve, and he doubted whether any man could with certainty claim—*pace* Darwin—a more ancient lineage.¹

As he has told us in his Autobiography, his family was one of the many that could not trace its origin for more than three or four generations back. All he knew was that he came of a North-country stock, members of which—village Hampdens and mute inglorious Miltons—had been settled in the County Palatine and in the vicinity of Liverpool for many years. He had a distinguished grandfather, a man of mark and public weight in his native town, and

¹ Johnnie Carnegie lais heer,
Descendit of Adam and Eve;
Gif ony con gang hicher,
Ise willing give him leve.