

**SIR ROWLAND HILL, K.C.B., A  
BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL  
SKETCH. WITH RECORDS OF THE  
FAMILY TO WHICH HE BELONGED**

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Sir Rowland Hill, K.C.B., a Biographical and Historical Sketch. With Records of the Family to Which He Belonged by Eliezer Edwards

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**ELIEZER EDWARDS**

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# SIR ROWLAND HILL,

K.C.B.

## A BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL SKETCH.

WITH RECORDS OF THE FAMILY TO WHICH  
HE BELONGED,

BY

ELIEZER EDWARDS,

*Author of "Personal Recollections of Birmingham Men," &c.*



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1879.

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## REMARKS.

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THE substance of the following work was originally written for publication in the *Birmingham Daily Mail* newspaper. Copies of the papers in which they appeared were forwarded to Sir ROWLAND HILL, and other members of the family. The following are extracts from letters received by the Author.

MR. PEARSON HILL, son of Sir ROWLAND, writes as follows:—

"I am requested by Sir ROWLAND HILL to thank you for the trouble you have been good enough to take in sending him copies of the *Birmingham Daily Mail* containing your articles upon Hazelwood. Sir ROWLAND HILL is unfortunately too infirm to read the articles in question. I have, however, read them with much interest, and have communicated to him their substance."

MR. FREDERIC HILL, Sir ROWLAND's brother, says:—

"Allow me to express to you the pleasure which your articles have afforded me; my sense of the cordial spirit in which they have been written; and my gratification at the high terms in which you have spoken of the public services which my family have been able to render."

MR. BERKELEY HILL, the eminent surgeon of Wimpole Street, who is a nephew of Sir ROWLAND, writes:—

"The account you give of the members of the HILL family is extremely gratifying and pleasant."



## P R E F A C E .

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**L**ITTLE preface is required to a slight sketch like this. The simple record of the doings of a man like Rowland Hill possesses an interest far beyond the unreal and the fictitious, and needs no introduction.

It is singular to observe how great discoveries like Hill's occur just at the proper time ; and how events having apparently but little connection with them happen almost simultaneously to assist in their development. But for the invention of steel pens a few years before, the enormous amount of writing consequent upon the postal changes could not have been effected, as

*Preface.*

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the whole world would not have afforded a sufficient supply of quills for the purpose ; whilst, but for the facilities afforded by railways and ocean steamers, half of the advantages of the new system would have been lost to mankind.

We have to acknowledge the kind permission of the London Stereoscopic Company to use their latest and best portrait, which is represented on the cover of this book.

E. E.

*Harborne, Birmingham,  
September, 1879.*







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# ROWLAND HILL.

## CHAPTER I.

### THE ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY OF THE HILL FAMILY.

**N**O one family, probably, in the kingdom has set its mark so prominently upon intellectual life and social progress, during the present century, as that to which the late Sir Rowland Hill belonged. For more than seventy years the name of Hill has been constantly coming to the front, associated always with some project for the benefit of humanity, or for the diffusion of knowledge. To Sir Rowland