

**THE BRIEF FOR THE
GOVERNMENT, 1886-92; A
HANDBOOK FOR CONSERVATIVE
AND UNIONIST WRITERS,
SPEAKERS, ETC**

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The brief for the government, 1886-92; a handbook for Conservative and Unionist writers, speakers, etc by W. H. Meredyth

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W. H. MEREDYTH

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AND UNIONIST WRITERS,
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THE
BRIEF FOR THE GOVERNMENT

1886-92

*A HANDBOOK FOR
CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WRITERS,
SPEAKERS, ETC.*

BY

W. H. MEREDYTH

SECOND EDITION

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS
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TO
HIS GRACE
THE DUKE OF BEAUFORT, K.G.,
LORD LIEUTENANT OF MONMOUTHSHIRE,
PRESIDENT OF THE WESTERN DIVISION OF THE
NATIONAL UNION OF CONSERVATIVE
ASSOCIATIONS,

THIS BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,
AS A SLIGHT TOKEN OF REGARD
AND APPRECIATION OF HIS UNTIRING ENERGY
IN PROMOTING THE CONSERVATIVE CAUSE
IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND.

388027

P R E F A C E.

IT is not without some reluctance that I venture to give to the public the notes which I have from time to time collected in favour of the Ministerial policy.

In the first place, I am perfectly conscious that a work of this kind cannot be complete. Much might be added to almost each subject dealt with. But I hope such omissions will not impair the value of what is included.

I believe the second edition of 'The Brief' forms a reliable handbook for every citizen who is willing to listen to our side of the question, and to give an intelligent vote in the election of a representative to Parliament.

That general election, when it does occur, will be one of the most serious and momentous events in the history of our country. It will mean either a continuation of the prosperity and greatness of our country, or the inauguration of a downward era towards the splitting up, and perhaps final decay, of the British Empire.

If the Conservative party in each constituency are fortunate in the selection of a candidate, not always on account of territorial possessions, but a man who

can lead men, and who possesses the power of winning sympathy and confidence, the result cannot be doubtful. The Government have done so much for every class of the community,—their policy, in Ireland, at home and abroad, has proved so successful,—that the nation would seem not only ungrateful but fatally blind to its own interests, if it set aside wise and tried administrators for an alliance between the avowed enemies of the Empire and the third-rate politicians who follow Mr Gladstone.

To the press generally I am deeply indebted for the kindness and consideration with which my first edition was received. Thanks mainly to them 'The Brief' has been widely circulated.

My acknowledgments are also due to the Right Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland; to the Hon. George Curzon, M.P.; Col. Eyre, C.B., M.P.; Mr Hayes Fisher, M.P.; Mr Hill Smith of Armagh, and others, for the valuable suggestions they have made for the improvement of 'The Brief.'

Last, but by no means least, my thanks are due to the rank and file of the Conservative and Unionist party, whose support has enabled me to complete my second edition, which to me has been a labour of love.

W. H. MEREDYTH.

JUNIOR CARLTON CLUB,
FALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.,
November 1891.

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