

**VISCOUNT
CASTLEREAGH**

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Viscount Castlereagh by Arthur Hassall

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ARTHUR HASSALL

**VISCOUNT
CASTLEREAGH**

Makers of National History

Edited by W. H. HUTTON, B.D.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH



THE RT. HON. HENRY ROBERT STEWART
LORD VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH

After the original picture by T. Lawrence, R.A.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH

BY

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MAKERS OF NATIONAL HISTORY

It is intended in this series to commemorate important men whose share in the making of national history seems to need a more complete record than it has yet received. In some cases the character, the achievements, or the life, have been neglected till modern times; in most cases new evidence has recently become available; in all cases a new estimate according to the historical standards of to-day seems to be called for. The aim of the series is to illustrate the importance of individual contributions to national development, in action and in thought. The foreign relations of the country are illustrated, the ecclesiastical position, the evolution of party, the meaning and influence of causes which never succeeded. No narrow limits are assigned. It is hoped to throw light upon English history at many different periods, and perhaps to extend the view to peoples other than our own. It will be attempted to show the value in national life of the many different interests that have employed the service of man.

The authors of the lives are writers who have a special knowledge of the periods to which the subjects of their memoirs belonged.

W. H. HUTTON.

S. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD.



AUTHOR'S PREFACE

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IN his memoirs, Greville sums up the characteristics of Castlereagh in a masterly fashion. "Londonderry's talents were great, though he owed his authority more to his character than his abilities. His appearance was dignified and imposing; he was affable and agreeable in society. His great feature was cool and determined courage. As a speaker, he was prolix, monotonous, and never eloquent; but full of good sense and argument. He was considered one of the best managers of the House of Commons that ever sat in it."

This description of Castlereagh, written by a no means friendly critic, is, if we except the remarks about his abilities, though somewhat terse, an accurate summary of his chief characteristics.

But the attention of historians and essayists has been almost exclusively directed towards the short period of Castlereagh's life subsequent to the year 1815. With the exception of the brilliant essay by the late Marquess of Salisbury, now supplemented by the memoir published by the Marchioness of Londonderry, no attempt has hitherto been made to estimate the value of Castlereagh's services at the time of the fall of Napoleon.

While the careers of most, if not all, of England's statesmen during the last three centuries have been fully described, no adequate estimate of Castlereagh's life and work has yet been given to the world.