THE SEVENTH EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K. G., AS SOCIAL REFORMER

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The Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, K. G., as Social Reformer by Edwin Hodder

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EDWIN HODDER

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From a Photograph by Samuel A. Walter.]

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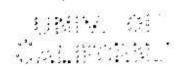
THE SEVENTH EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.,

as Social Reformer.

BY

EDWIN HODDER,

Anthor of "The Life and Work of the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G."; "The Life of Samuel Morley"; "John MacGregor (Rob Roy);" "George Smith, of Coalville;" etc., ic.



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PREFACE.

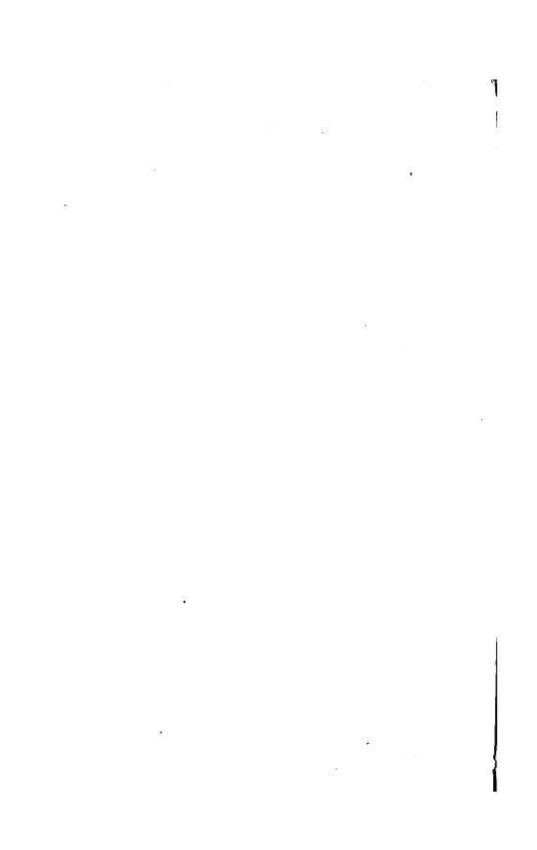
I T was my high honour to be chosen by the "good" Earl of Shaftesbury to be his biographer, and, in 1886, it was my privilege to give to the world the full story of his life—political, social, domestic, philanthropic, and religious. It was, of necessity, a lengthy narrative, occupying three bulky volumes and sixteen hundred pages of print.

The present work is confined to one aspect of his career—that of Social Reformer—and is intended to set before the reader in a brief form a résumé of those important movements to which he devoted his life, standing out pre-eminently as the champion of the defenceless and oppressed, and winning for himself a name that will live for ever in the annals of this country as the Friend of the Working Man, and the great Social Reformer of the nineteenth century.

EDWIN HODDER.

HEATHERDENE, HAREWOOD ROAD, SOUTH CROYDON.

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THE SEVENTH

EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.

CHAPTER Is.

EARLY CAREER.

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A NTONY ASHLEY COOPER, seventh Earl of Shaftesbury, was born in Grosvenor Square on April 28th, 1801. His father was for many years Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords. His mother was a daughter of the fourth Duke of Marlborough. The ancestors of the Earl, both on his mother's and his father's side, were distinguished men. The first Earl of Shaftesbury was the famous minister of Charles II.; the third Earl was the equally famous author of the "Characteristics"; the second, fourth, and fifth Earls achieved no distinction or left no mark on the history of their times. The sixth Earl, Cropley Ashley, succeeded to the title on the death of his brother in 1811.

The first qualification for the work before him of the great Englishman, Christian philanthropist, and