

**MEMOIR OF SIR
CHARLES REED**

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Memoir of Sir Charles Reed by Charles E. B. Reed

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CHARLES E. B. REED

**MEMOIR OF SIR
CHARLES REED**



Charles Reed

MEMOIR
OF
SIR CHARLES REED

BY HIS SON
CHARLES E. B. REED, M.A.
AUTHOR OF "THE COMPANIONS OF THE LORD."

London
MACMILLAN AND CO.
1883

TO HER

WHOSE SYMPATHY, EVER SOUGHT AND NEVER FAILING,

STRENGTHENED THE LIFE OF HER HUSBAND,

AND NOW HAS AIDED

THE PEN OF HER SON,

THESE PAGES

ARE AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.



P R E F A C E.

ALTHOUGH the following pages tell a plain story that needs no introduction, a few words may be allowed the writer as to the materials he has had at command, and the use he has sought to make of them.

The materials have in some respects been scanty. Sir Charles Reed's correspondence was for the most part brief and confined to business. Nor did he leave any private diary, from which his biographer might draw—perhaps be tempted to draw with too free a hand. He was too active a man to chronicle the doings of each day; while as to putting on paper his thoughts and reflections, he would probably have agreed

with a worthy minister who, after keeping a diary of this kind for some months, closed it with the remark :—"If I write down my better feelings, people will think too well of me; and if I record my worse, I shall pain those who care for me."

In using the materials that were available, the writer has endeavoured to follow two principles—the one, to restrict himself to matters of general, as distinguished from family, interest; and the other, to dwell only on what was in some degree characteristic. While, therefore, the public movements in which Sir Charles took part could not be passed by, they are introduced only as a background, and with a view to make his figure stand forth more clearly on the canvas.

For it is the man, and not his surroundings, that one cares to paint. Striking incident is not essential in order to justify a biography. The one element that is needed is power; it may be power of bold and rapid movement, or

of intellectual leadership, or—as it is believed will be found here—of high, concentrated, and steadfast purpose. And if this purpose has been pursued amid paths trodden by the many, then the value of the record as an incentive to others should not be lessened, but enhanced.

It may be added that this Memoir has had to be prepared in the intervals of other work. The writer has thus been prevented from consulting many of his father's old friends, who might have been able to contribute valuable information. Among those who have kindly assisted, none deserve more grateful mention than the Rev. Andrew Reed, elder brother to Sir Charles, and Mr. G. H. Croad, head of the staff of the London School Board.

April 12th, 1883.