

**RICHARD COBDEN
AND THE JUBILEE
OF FREE TRADE**

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Richard Cobden and the jubilee of free trade by Henry Dunckley

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HENRY DUNCKLEY

**RICHARD COBDEN
AND THE JUBILEE
OF FREE TRADE**

*RICHARD COBDEN AND THE JUBILEE
OF FREE TRADE*

UNIFORM WITH THIS VOLUME


THE LIFE OF RICHARD COBDEN

By JOHN MORLEY

JUBILEE EDITION

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RICHARD COBDEN
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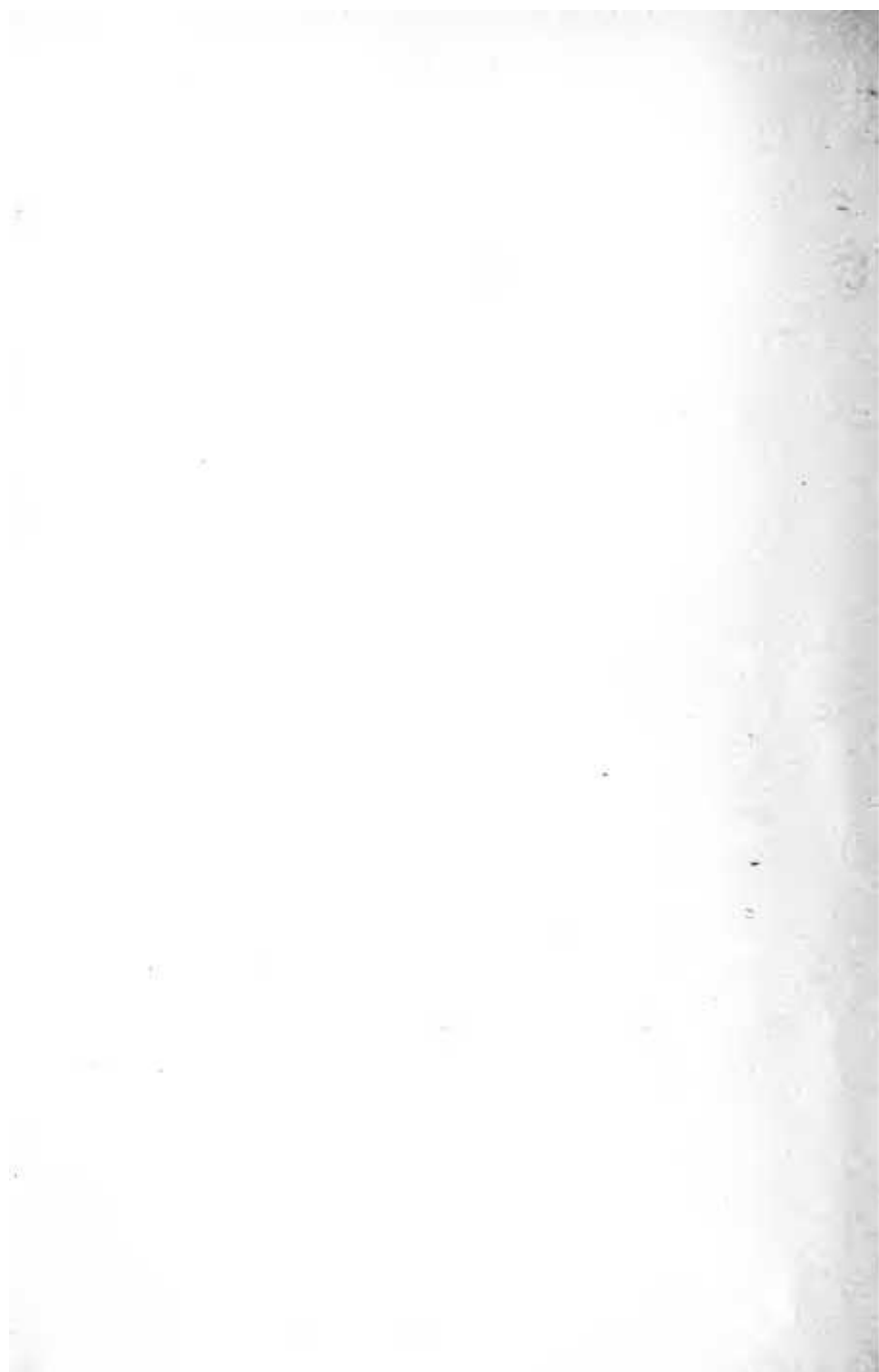
BY HENRY DUNCKLEY, D.C.L.; M. PAUL
LEROY-BEAULIEU; THEODOR BARTH;
THE RIGHT HON. LEONARD COURTNEY,
M.P., AND THE RIGHT HON. CHARLES PEL-
HAM VILLIERS, M.P.

WITH INTRODUCTION
BY RICHARD GOWING

LONDON: T. FISHER UNWIN
PATERNOSTER SQUARE, 1896

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INTRODUCTION

RICHARD COBDEN lived to see less than twenty years of the half century which has brought us to the Jubilee of the Repeal of the Corn Laws. In his time neither the economic doctrine nor the political policy of Free Trade was seriously challenged after the triumphant return of the Free Trade Parliament of 1852. The Anti-Corn Law League had been revived—in anticipation of Lord Derby's Protectionist appeal to the country—at a meeting at Manchester on the 2d of March, when Mr Cobden declared 'We are going

to make an effort to put an end for ever to this controversy of Free Trade;' and Mr John Bright said, 'I have not the shadow of a doubt that, if the question be fairly put to the constituencies, a large majority will, in 1852, ratify, confirm and seal for ever the policy which was adopted in 1846.' The policy was in due time, in accordance with Mr Bright's forecast, ratified, confirmed and sealed by the constituencies, probably 'for ever;' and from that time forth Mr Cobden was never confronted by anything in the shape of substantial reaction. When the Cobden Club was founded, some months after the great Free Trader's death, in 1866, the commemorative element in the club was more conspicuous than the fighting element. The first hundred gentlemen who put down their names as concurring in Mr Thomas Bayley Potter's proposal did so