

**PORTRAITS OF MEN OF EMINENCE
IN LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND
ART, WITH BIOGRAPHICAL
MEMOIRS. THE PHOTOGRAPHS
FROM LIFE. VOL. I**

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Portraits of Men of Eminence in Literature, Science, and Art, with Biographical Memoirs. The Photographs from Life. Vol. I by Ernest Edwards & Lovell Reeve

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ERNEST EDWARDS & LOVELL REEVE

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WITH

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THE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM LIFE, BY ERNEST EDWARDS, B.A.

EDITED BY

LOVELL REEVE, F.L.S.

VOL. I.



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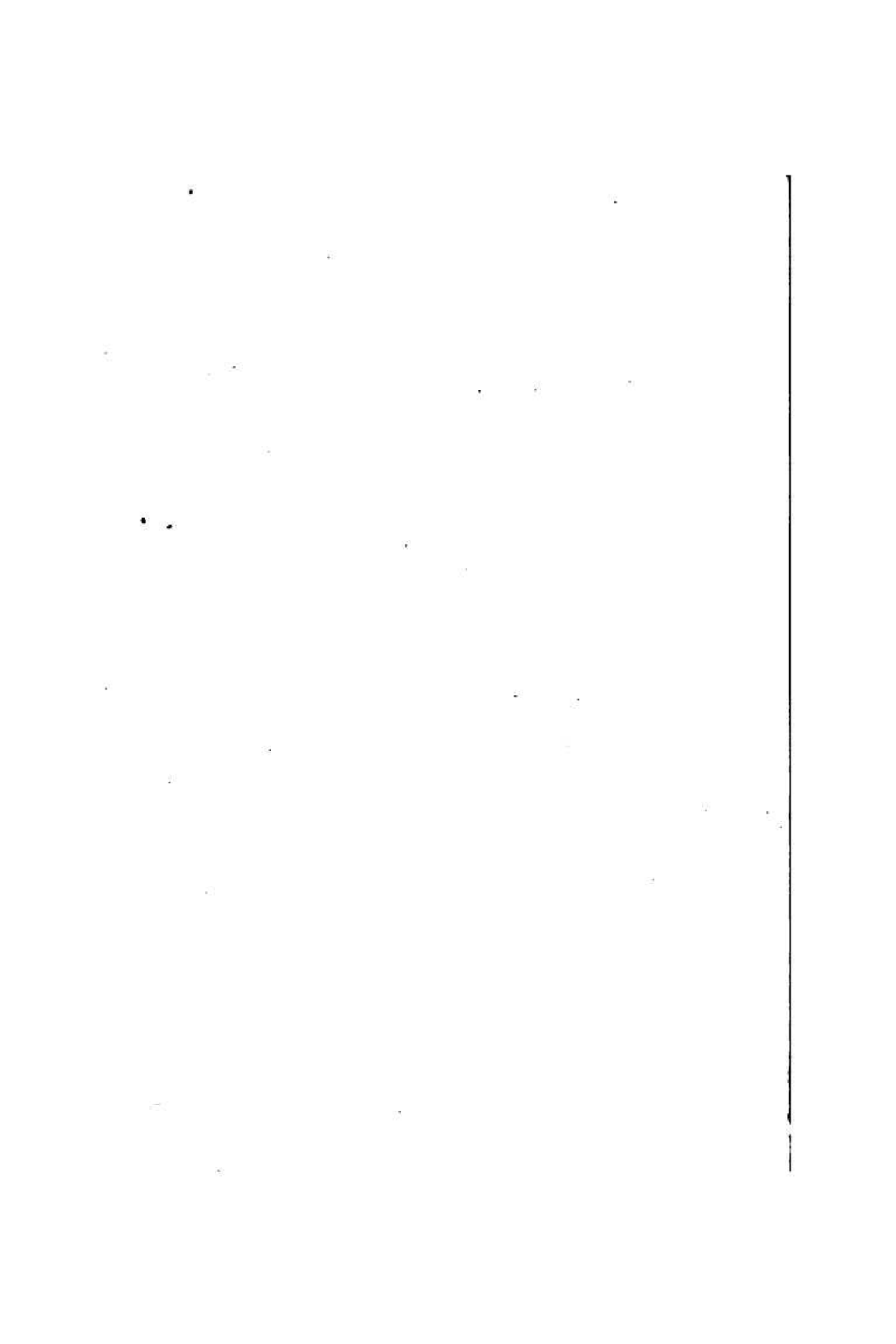
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EARL STANHOPE, D.C.L., F.R.S.

It was said, with reference to the subject of our memoir, by a no less pointed observer than the late Lord Macaulay, that "industry and a taste for intellectual pleasures are peculiarly respectable in those who can afford to be idle, and who have every temptation to be dissipated. It is impossible not to wish success to a man who, finding himself placed, without any exertion or any merit on his part, above the mass of society, voluntarily descends from his eminence in search of distinctions which he may justly call his own." Thirty years have transpired since these sentences were written; the allusion to the early youth of the writer is now no longer appropriate, and the wished-for success has since been amply attained, but the sentiment comprised in the above lines is still the most natural that occurs to the mind in contemplating the prosperous literary career of a noble author.

Lord Stanhope has had the somewhat rare distinction of conferring celebrity upon both his titles, having already taken rank as an historian before he succeeded to the peerage. The reader may be not unwilling to be reminded that the founder of the earldom was a grandson of the first and celebrated Lord Chesterfield, whose younger son, Alexander, was Minister successively at Madrid and the Hague. His letters during his residence in Spain were published by the present Lord Stanhope in 1840. The eldest son of the Hon. Alexander Stanhope, after serving as a volunteer in the wars of William III., and in the expedition against Vigo in 1702, was, a few years afterwards, appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in Spain. It was whilst he was serving in this capacity that the island of Minorca, with its harbour of Port Mahon, fell into his hands, from which event the second title of the family is derived. The earldom was acquired some years later,

after the successful Commander had filled various high offices of State under George I.

The third in descent from James, first Earl of Stanhope, the present Earl's grandfather, was the inventor of the Stanhope printing-press, and of improvements in navigation and many other of the arts. He married Hester, daughter of the great Earl of Chatham, and the celebrated Lady Hester Stanhope was one of their children. He was remembered also for his political eccentricities, especially his adoption of republican sentiments, and his surrender of the outward distinctions of the peerage. Philip Henry, the fourth Earl, was remarkable for his attachment to the institutions and society of Germany, of which nation he was almost as much a member as of his native country. His son, the present Earl, was born at Walmer in 1805, and was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, where he took the ordinary degrees.

No one doubts that the actions, military and civil, of his great ancestor were the inducements which directed Earl Stanhope's historical studies in the course they have taken. 'The War of the Succession in Spain,' of which the first edition appeared in 1832, was compiled to no small extent from the manuscript papers of General Stanhope, still preserved at the family seat, Chevening, Kent. This work was dedicated, with warm expressions of public admiration and personal regard, to the Duke of Wellington; and after having been grimly approved by the then Mr. Macaulay, with a magisterial severity natural to an Edinburgh reviewer sitting in judgment on a young Tory lord, it passed into a second edition, and has since been republished in more than one form. This was followed, in the year 1839, by the appearance of the first volume of Lord Mahon's 'History of England, from the Peace of Utrecht to the Peace of Versailles,' continued, in seven volumes, at intervals down to the year 1854,—a work which has long taken its place as one of our standard English Classics. In this history, the merits, already pointed out by the Edinburgh reviewer, of "great diligence in examining authorities, great judgment in weighing testimony, and great impartiality in estimating characters," were again conspicuous. Lord Mahon was still engaged in the congenial field of describing events in which the first Earl Stanhope played a leading part; but he had also to describe the conduct of the Earl of Peterborough, and lays claim, with justice, to have placed the character of his ancestor's rival on a higher level