

**HISTORICAL
BIOGRAPHIES: LIFE OF
SIMON DE MONTFORT,
EARL OF LEICESTER**

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Historical Biographies: Life of Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester by M. Creighton

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PREFACE

THE object of the series of Biographies, of which this is the first, is to try and render the study of history more interesting to the young. It often happens at present that a difficulty is felt by the teacher how to proceed in teaching history after the rudiments have been fairly mastered by the pupil. There are text-books, of differing length, which cover English history as a whole; but the pupil's interest soon flags in reading one brief sketch after another. The teacher is at a loss what to do with a pupil who has shown a real liking for English history, and has gained a clear idea of its general outlines, but is not yet old enough to read the larger works of the standard historians, such as Hallam, Freeman, Macaulay, or Froude.

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Moreover, it is possible in dealing with a brief period to work together the connexion of England and other countries more clearly than the limits of a text-book allow. This is a matter of considerable importance. School histories are usually confined to the history of England itself, and their allusions to foreign affairs are necessarily so brief as to produce little impression on their readers. It is a difficulty greatly felt by teachers, how to habituate their pupils to the idea of England as forming part of a great European commonwealth. In this matter also it is hoped that these HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHIES may be found useful.

There are also some minds which are not attracted by general sketches of history, but require the imagination to be awakened, and interest to be kindled, by the realization of a definite time and a definite person. When once an