

THE EARL OF DERBY

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The Earl of Derby by George Saintsbury

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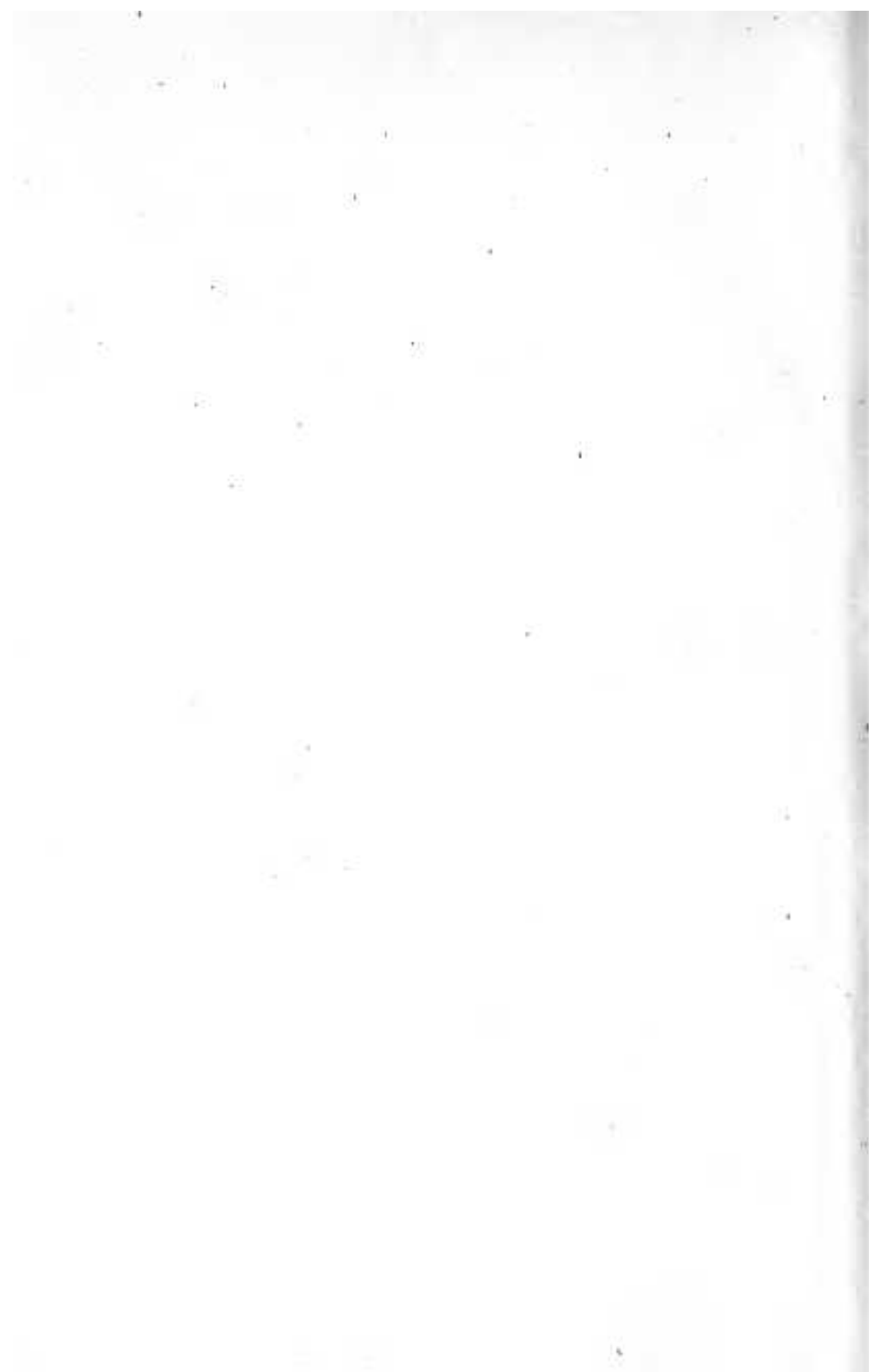
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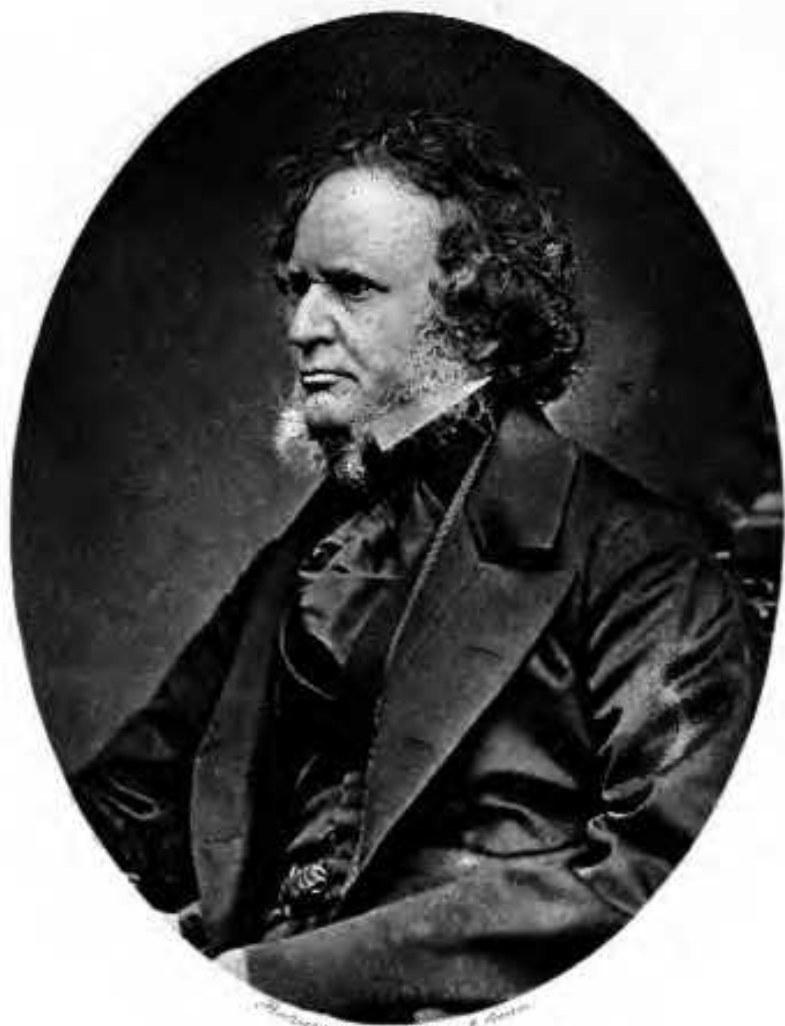
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BY
GEORGE SAINTSBURY



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PREFACE

IN some considerable reading of books of history, I have found that the most profitable are usually those in which the author, while giving his facts as fully and loyally as he can, makes no secret of his opinions and argues as stoutly as he may for them. Therefore, and not because I suppose that these opinions are in my own case of any importance or interest to the world, I think it may not be impertinent to say that this little book is written from the point of view of a Tory. And as I have heard several persons say that they do not exactly know what a Tory means, I may add that I define a Tory as a person who would, at the respective times and in the respective circumstances, have opposed Catholic Emancipation, Reform, the Repeal of the Corn Laws, and the whole Irish Legislation of Mr. Gladstone.

There is no full or official life of Lord Derby; and it appeared to me that, as those who were in a position to supply the deficiency had not chosen to do so, it would not be proper to approach them with the request for private information. Moreover, there is, in the scale of a book like this, room for little more than the attempt