

LECTURES
ON
MODERN HISTORY.

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INTRODUCTORY LECTURES

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ON

MODERN HISTORY,

DELIVERED IN LENT TERM, MDCCCXLII.

WITH

THE INAUGURAL LECTURE

DELIVERED IN DECEMBER, MDCCCXLI.

BY THOMAS ARNOLD, D.D.,

REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MODERN HISTORY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD,
AND HEAD MASTER OF RUGBY SCHOOL.

EDITED,

FROM THE SECOND LONDON EDITION,

WITH A PREFACE AND NOTES,

BY HENRY REED, M. A.,

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.



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PREFACE

TO

THE AMERICAN EDITION.

It will be seen from Dr. Arnold's prefatory note, that these Lectures were printed almost exactly as they were delivered; the date of the publication showing too that it was very soon after the delivery of them. The Lectures are altogether of an introductory character, and it was the humble hope of the author, that in succeeding years he would be enabled to devote other courses to the farther examination of modern history—the subject which he regarded as “of all others the most interesting, inasmuch as it includes all questions of the deepest interest, relating not to human things only, but to divine.” The last lecture in this volume appears to have been delivered in the month of February, 1842, and it was upon the 12th of June that Dr. Arnold's sudden death took place. The hope of future labors in modern history was not to be fulfilled, and, in the words of his biographer, “the Introductory Lectures were to be invested with the solemnity of being the last words which he spoke in his beloved university.”

The design of these Lectures cannot be better described than by saying that they were intended to excite a greater interest in the study of history. Dr. Arnold's biographer thus speaks of them:

“The course was purely and in every sense of the word ‘introductory.’ As the design of his first residence in Oxford was not to gain influence over the place so much as to familiarize himself with it after his long absence; so the object of his first lectures was not so much to impart any historical knowledge, as to state his own views of history, and to excite an interest in the study of it. The