

ESSAYS ON REFORM.



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PREFACE.

THE writers of this collection of Essays have been drawn together by general similarity of opinions and by a common desire to contribute, each on the topic with which he happens to be most familiar, to the solution of the great problem which at present occupies the mind of the nation. But they are not otherwise responsible for the contents of each other's Essays, which most of them have not seen.

The present collection contains Essays bearing directly on the Reform of the House of Commons. It is hoped that its contents may help to show that the demand for a more national Parliament is not a mere cry to which it would be folly and weakness to give way, or the expedient of a party anxious to attain power by the aid of popular agitation, but a conviction seriously entertained and capable of being supported by arguments worthy of the attention of those who wish to legislate deliberately and in an impartial spirit for the good of the whole people.