



LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR FREDERICK SLEIGH ROBERTS, V.C., G.C.B., C.I.E.

MAJOR-GENERAL
SIR FREDERICK S. ROBERTS,

BART., V.C., G.C.B., C.I.E., R.A.

A MEMOIR.

BY

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"MEMOIR OF LORD WOLSELEY,"
"HISTORY OF MARITIME DISCOVERY,"
ETC., ETC.

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P R E F A C E .

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THE practice of writing a memoir * of a living public man scarcely stands in need of defence, since it has become of such common practice. Within recent years, the careers of Lord Beaconsfield and Mr. Gladstone, Lord Wolseley and Mr. Bright, have been given to the public during their lifetime ; and the only question that arises, when considering the advisability of such a publication,—conceding the necessity of abstaining from publishing matter that would violate any confidences, or unduly cause pain to the living or the representatives of the dead,—would appear to have reference to the public demand in each particular instance.

Such a question as applied to Sir Frederick Roberts must be unhesitatingly given in the affirmative. The military achievements of the gallant officer are great and undeniable, “as a mountain open, palpable.” They have received the unstinted acknowledgments not only of all classes of his countrymen, but of the highest professional authorities of the Continent. Count Von Moltke and the German generals expressed their unbounded admiration of the great march from Cabul to Candahar ; and the heroic Skobeleff, whose untimely death was such a crushing blow to the army he adorned, as well as to the cause of Pan-slavism, though the peace of Europe was the gainer by his

* It should be stated that this memoir was completed early in 1882, but circumstances delayed its publication. It has been compiled from the Blue Books and official despatches, and from personal reminiscences supplied in conversation and by correspondence with Sir Frederick Roberts, who himself revised the entire work, chapter by chapter.