

THE RIGHT HON.
JOHN CHARLES HERRIES

VOL. I.

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MEMOIR
OF
THE PUBLIC LIFE OF THE RIGHT HON.
JOHN CHARLES HERRIES

IN THE REIGNS OF GEORGE III., GEORGE IV.
WILLIAM IV. AND VICTORIA

BY HIS SON
EDWARD HERRIES, C.B.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY SIR CHARLES HERRIES, K.C.B.

IN TWO VOLUMES—VOL. I.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE immediate cause of the publication of the following volumes is the appearance of a book by Mr. Spencer Walpole entitled a 'History of England from the Conclusion of the Great War in 1815,' in which an account is given of Mr. Herries's share in the formation and dissolution of the Goderich Administration, so entirely erroneous and so injurious to his reputation, that it would be impossible for those who are interested in maintaining his good name to allow such calumnious misrepresentations to remain unrefuted.

It is true that Mr. Walpole's statements are to a great extent repetitions of those to be found in Lord Palmerston's Autobiography, and in Mr. Greville's Memoirs, and that some answer should have been made on the appearance of the first of those publications.

Such was originally my intention, but the accident of a long illness and other pressing avocations prevented me from fulfilling it at the proper time, and the opportunity passed away. The task has been resumed now by my brother and, I venture to think, accomplished with a completeness which must preclude all future attempts, such as that of Mr. Walpole, to vilify Mr. Herries's character.