

ENGLAND
UNDER
THE COALITION

WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR.



ENGLAND UNDER LORD BEAÇONSFIELD.
SAMUEL SHARPE, Egyptologist, Philanthropist,
and Translator of the Bible.

THE EARLY LIFE OF SAMUEL ROGERS.
ROGERS AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.
2 vols.

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*THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
IRELAND FROM THE GENERAL ELECTION OF 1885
TO MAY 1892*

BY

P. W. CLAYDEN

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P R E F A C E.

IN the following pages I have told the story of two Parliaments and three Governments. The period of six years and a half which the history covers has been one of unusual interest and importance, and it was impossible to bring out its true historical significance without taking it as a whole. The Government with whose origin and doings the book is principally concerned was a great experiment. A Tory administration governing for nearly six years without a Tory majority in the House of Commons is a new thing in English politics. It owed its existence to a group of men sitting on the Opposition benches, calling themselves Liberals but voting against the Liberal party, and covering a Tory policy with their protecting arms. I have told the story of the period as events have presented themselves from day to day to a political journalist whose duty it has been to note and criticize. This book, therefore, like "England under Lord Beaconsfield," is a history of political events, and the proportion in which I have presented them is necessarily that in which they appear to a Liberal politician. The work, like its predecessor, is issued on the eve of a general election, which will result, as I believe, in a great victory for Liberal principles and the Liberal party. No reader of the narrative will doubt what the indications of public feeling are.