

ENGLAND  
UNDER  
THE COALITION

**WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR.**



ENGLAND UNDER LORD BEACONSFIELD.  
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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## PREFACE.

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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.