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HISTORY OF ENGLAND 1701—1713.

By EARL STANHOPE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. I.

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THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND FROM THE
Accession of James the Second till 1701. By LORD MACAULAY.
10 vols.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND COMPRISING THE
Reign of Queen Anne until the Peace of Utrecht. 1701—1713.
By EARL STANHOPE. 2 vols.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND FROM THE PEACE
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PREFACE.

THESE VOLUMES have been written, in accordance with the wish expressed to me by several persons, as a connecting link between the close of Lord Macaulay's History of England and the commencement of that from the Peace of Utrecht, which I published while still bearing the title of Mahon. It is to be observed, that Lord Macaulay did not live to complete, as was hoped, the reign of William the Third. It is sometimes supposed that he did so, since his final volume, as published by his family, contains an excellent account of the last illness and decease of the King. But this is only a detached passage which stands separate from the rest. Of the last part of that reign, a period of between one and two years, there is unhappily with one other exception no record from his pen. That deficiency has here to be supplied.

In the reign of Anne the main figure in war and politics—around which it may be said that all the

others centre—is undoubtedly Marlborough. I have to the best of my ability endeavoured to weigh his character in the scales of impartial justice—believing as I do that these scales have not been held even in the hands of preceding writers. In some we may trace blind adulation; in some others most unsparing hostility.

Although in several points of my narrative I differ from the conclusions which Archdeacon Coxe has formed, I have constantly derived the greatest advantage from the ample extracts of the Blenheim Papers which he has inserted in his Life of Marlborough. I allude especially to the confidential correspondence of the Duke with the Duchess and Lord Godolphin. There are some further extracts from these Papers which Archdeacon Coxe had made but did not publish, and which (forming part of his large manuscript collection) are now at the British Museum. Of these also I have been able to make use. But, on the other hand, I cannot acknowledge any obligation to the series of Marlborough's letters, taken from Mr. Cardonnel's copy-books, and published by Sir George Murray in 1845. Of these letters, filling five large volumes, by far the greater part as I conceive was neither written nor