

HISTORY OF ENGLAND

FROM THE

ACCESSION OF JAMES I.

TO

THE OUTBREAK OF THE CIVIL WAR

1603-1642

BY

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PREFACE.

IN issuing in a connected form the works which have been the labour of twenty years, my attention has necessarily been called to their defects. Much material has accumulated since the early volumes were published, and my own point of view is not quite the same as it was when I started with the first years of James I. I have therefore thoroughly revised and, in part, rewritten the first portion of the book.

The most important contribution to the history of the period is Mr. Spedding's edition of Bacon's *Letters and Life*. The mere fact that it has given us, for the first time, Bacon's letters in chronological order would be a cause for the greatest thankfulness. With the addition of Mr. Spedding's own commentary, the book is simply invaluable to the historian of Bacon's period.

I may also refer to Mr. Pattison's *Isaac Casaubon* and Dean Church's 'Essay on Andrewes' in *Leaders of English Theology*. Mr. Hamilton's *Calendar of Domestic State Papers* has advanced a stage even since the publication of my last volume, and the *Irish Calendar of State Papers* relating to the reign of James I., by Messrs Russell and Prendergast, has entirely appeared since I worked at that period. I cannot abstain from referring to Mr. J. T. Gilbert's excellently chosen selection of Irish State Papers printed in the Appendices to his *Contemporary History*

of *Affairs in Ireland*, and his *History of the Irish Confederation*, as, though only a few of them refer to the period with which the present work is occupied, I hope to be able to make full use of them when I come to deal with the Civil War.

Of MS. sources of information, which I had not at command in writing my first edition, I would specify the letters preserved at Hatfield, access to which I owe to the kindness of the Marquis of Salisbury, and the series of Roman transcripts which are now accumulating in the Public Record Office. Every month, and sometimes every week, brings a new addition to this valuable collection, and I may probably be able in an Appendix to the last volume to clear up some points left unsettled.

I have also received permission from Earl Cowper to examine the correspondence of Sir John Coke preserved at Melbourne Hall, and from Mr. F. W. Cosens to see a collection of transcripts of Gondomar's despatches in his possession. I hope that from these sources I may obtain new information, but I cannot as yet say whether this will be the case.

In the first edition the work opened with a somewhat lengthy sketch of English history down to the death of Elizabeth. The greater part of this is now omitted, partly because it seems out of place, and partly because I have recently given it to the world in a more mature form, in an *Introduction to the Study of English History* written by me in conjunction with Mr. J. Bass Mullinger.

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