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HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

Ms. B. M.

THE
PERSONAL LIFE
OF
QUEEN VICTORIA

BY
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P R E F A C E

THE aim of the writer of this "Life" has been to narrate those incidents which tend most to reveal the personal history and character of the Queen, and no attempt has been made to deal with the events of her reign which belong more to the historian than to the personal biographer. In writing of one so illustrious and far removed from ordinary acquaintance and observation, the difficulties of faithful portraiture are apparent; but the frank manner in which Her Majesty has revealed the details of her domestic life in Sir Theodore Martin's "Life of the Prince Consort," the two volumes of "Leaves from Our Journal in the Highlands," and the "Memoir of Princess Alice," makes the task easier. In addition to these sources of information, I am indebted to the "Greville Memoirs," the "Life of Baron Stockmar," Lady Bloomfield's "Reminiscences," the Bunsen and Malmesbury "Memoirs," and

many other "Lives" and "Reminiscences" of eminent courtiers and statesmen which throw side lights upon the Queen's private life. Among the many books written upon Her Majesty I have found none more suggestive than the biographies by Jefferson, Barnett Smith, and Grace Greenwood, and Humphrey's "Queen at Balmoral." Fugitive literature throughout the reign has been laid under contribution as affording pictures of scenes and events as they passed before the public eye.

A large amount of private information has been kindly given by those personally acquainted with Her Majesty, and who have had the opportunity for observing the attractiveness and dignity of her character in private; and to them I am indebted for many of the incidents and anecdotes related. Canon Davys, son of the Queen's tutor, a former Bishop of Peterborough, has also supplied much interesting information regarding her early years.

SARAH A. TOOLEY.

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