

EDITORIAL NOTE

It appears that Trelawny's practice was to make pencil notes during his attendance at parliamentary debates, and to write these up along with his other observations at a later stage, sometimes the next day. The text of the diaries was then corrected at leisure, usually for the purpose simply of improving the literary quality, and it is the corrected version that has therefore been followed in this edition. In a few cases, however, where a deletion seems to indicate a change of opinion or a significant toning down of a comment, the original version has also been included: these passages are printed within + signs. Trelawny used a facing page system, and sometimes added marginal comments on the left hand page with a symbol to indicate where these were intended to be inserted into the text: these passages have been printed within * signs.

In order to convey some of the flavour of the original document, it has been my policy to retain certain abbreviations which Trelawny used almost constantly, such as wd., shd., govt., and agt., as well as the ampersand, and to confine expansions to less familiar abbreviations which might disrupt the flow of the text. Trelawny's erratic capitalisation has also been adhered to. With regard to punctuation, however, it has been found necessary in places to make silent alterations in order to render the text more intelligible.

This edition of the Trelawny diaries contains approximately sixty-five percent of the original text. Much of the material that has been omitted is of a routine nature, or else has been judged to be unduly repetitive (he often used the diary to rehearse his arguments on the major issues with which he was concerned, such as the church rate abolition bill). Trelawny also frequently suffered from gout, and during his enforced absences from the House of Commons he relied heavily upon newspaper reports when writing up brief summaries of events in the diaries. It has therefore been possible to omit many such entries without loss to the value of the edition.

There are signs that Trelawny had it in mind that he might eventually publish his diaries, perhaps in the form of the writings of an anonymous observer, a style that was common in the journals of the day. If so, this may help to explain one peculiarity of the text: Trelawny's habit of referring to himself in the third person.

Brief biographical details of members of parliament have been

included in the index, although certain information has sometimes been added in the footnotes where it seemed appropriate to do so.

The place of publication of all secondary works is London, unless otherwise stated.

The following abbreviations have been used throughout the footnotes:

H *Hansard's Parliamentary Debates*, 3rd series.

P.P. *Parliamentary Papers*.

B.F.S.P. *British and Foreign State Papers*.