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Nicholas Richardson

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BY

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PREFACE

This book is a study of the Prefectorial Corps during the Restoration. Constructed in terms of the personnel of the Corps, it is not concerned with their day-to-day duties, but with their recruitment, careers, and with the organization of the prefectorial system. A large number of the Corps belonged to families already noble before 1789: my final chapter is designed to explore the extent and nature of the nobility's participation in this branch of government service. Although the study of a single administration can provide no more than a modest springboard for further generalization, I have tried, in the introduction, both to put the Restoration Corps in its historical context as an instrument of local government, and to suggest the issues which the social background of its personnel evokes.

I began work on the Corps in Paris in 1960. I owe my thanks to the Master and Fellows of Peterhouse for grants which made an initial two and a half years in Paris possible, and to the Master and Fellows of Trinity Hall for a Research, later an Official, Fellowship, which has enabled me to continue work on the subject, as for their stoic suspension of disbelief at seeing their initiative rewarded. I should also like to thank all those in France and England who have given me advice and encouragement over the last five years, and in particular Professors Sir Denis Brogan and Bertier de Sauvigny.

That this book should resemble a thesis may be the less surprising since it began life as one. For this as for its other imperfections I should like to take full responsibility.

N. J. M. R.

Cambridge
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ABBREVIATIONS

AAG	Archives Administratives de la Guerre, Château de Vincennes.
AAG, CG	Classement Général of Officers, military dossiers 1791-1847.
AAG, Emigrés	Reports of commission examining the claims of émigré officers (519, 1-22).
<i>ADLN</i>	<i>Annuaire de la noblesse.</i>
AN	Archives nationales.
AN doss.	Personal dossiers of members of the prefectoral corps, series [F1bI], 155 (1)-180.
AP	Archives parlementaires.
<i>BL</i>	<i>Bulletin des Lois.</i>
Chaix	Chaix d'Est-Ange, <i>Dictionnaire des familles françaises.</i>
<i>DBF</i>	<i>Dictionnaire de biographie française.</i>
<i>GA</i>	<i>Grand armorial de France.</i>
R + C	Robert and Cougny, <i>Dictionnaire des parlementaires françaises.</i>
Révérènd, <i>Armorial</i>	Révérènd, <i>Armorial du premier Empire.</i>
Révérènd, <i>Restauration</i>	Révérènd, <i>Les familles titrées et anoblies au XIX^e siècle. . . la Restauration.</i>
Woèlmont	Woèlmont de Brumagne, <i>Notices généalogiques.</i>