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The Correspondence of William Wilberforce

William Wilberforce (1759–1833) was a politician, philanthropist and evangelical Christian, now best known for his work to end the slave trade. Elected to parliament in 1780, his early campaigns were unsuccessful attempts at penal and electoral reform. In 1787, at the encouragement of his friend William Pitt, he took up the cause of abolition at Westminster, while Thomas Clarkson and others collected evidence and mobilised popular opinion. Wilberforce also lobbied tirelessly for the cause, but humanitarian and ethical arguments were slow to overcome the economic interests of those who had made fortunes from the slave trade or use of slave labour. It was not until 1807 that the Abolition Bill was finally passed. Wilberforce continued his work for the emancipation of slaves (not achieved until 1833, just days before his death), and also campaigned for religious liberty until ill-health led to his withdrawal from public life. This work, edited by two of his sons and published in 1840, includes their reply to criticisms by Thomas Clarkson of their earlier biography, also reissued in this series.

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VOLUME 2

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE

EDITED BY

ROBERT ISAAC WILBERFORCE

AND SAMUEL WILBERFORCE



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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108025126

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1840

This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-02512-6 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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LONDON :
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New-Street-Square.

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WILLIAM WILBERFORCE.

EDITED BY HIS SONS,

ROBERT ISAAC WILBERFORCE, M.A.

VICAR OF EAST FARLEIGH, LATE FELLOW OF ORIEL COLLEGE ;

AND

SAMUEL WILBERFORCE, M.A.

ARCHDEACON OF SURREY, RECTOR OF BRIGHTSTONE.

As he had a great number of friends of the best men, so no man had ever
the confidence to avow himself to be his enemy. — LORD CLARENDON.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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978-1-108-02512-6 - The Correspondence of William Wilberforce, Volume 2

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