

CONTENTS OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY LIFE.

	PAGE
Cobden's birthplace	1
His family and early education	2
Business in London	5
Character as a young man	7
Commercial journeys	8
Family troubles	13
Begins business on his own account	15

CHAPTER II.

COMMERCIAL AND MENTAL PROGRESS.

Cobden's early enterprise	18
At Sabden	22
Self-education	25
Visits France and Switzerland	27
Death of his Father	29

CHAPTER III.

TRAVELS IN WEST AND EAST.

Voyage to the United States	31
Vindication of his own country	33
Niagara	35
Estimate of American character	39
Publication of pamphlets	41
Starts for the East	43
Gibraltar	45
Malta and Alexandria	49
Alexandria	51
From Alfeh to Cairo	53
The Pyramids	55
Cairo	57
Visit to Mehemet Ali	59

	PAGE
Egyptian Manufactories	67
Massacre of Scio	69
Constantinople	71
Voyage to Smyrna	73
Conversations at Smyrna	75
At Smyrna	77
Athens and the Greeks	81
From Athens to Patras	83
Malta and the navy	87

CHAPTER IV.

THE TWO PAMPHLETS.

Mental activity after the Reform Act	91
Combe's influence on Cobden	93
Application to English policy	95
The new problem	97
Material well-being and political stability	99
Russia and Turkey	101
Intervention judged by experience	103
The Great Usage	105
Decisive importance of American competition	107
Extravagances of intervention	109
Shelburne as a precursor	111

CHAPTER V.

LIFE IN MANCHESTER, 1837-9.

Letter on factory legislation	115
Rejection at Stockport	117
Business and position in Manchester	119
Opinion in Manchester	121
Struggle for a Charter	123
Coldness of Whigs for local self-government	125
The Radicals and the people	127
The Zollverein	129
The Prussian Government	131
A Sunday at Berlin	133
Manchester and Germany contrasted	135
Acquaintances in London	137
Incorporation of Manchester	139

CHAPTER VI.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE LEAGUE.

Narrow beginning of the struggle	141
The London Anti-Corn-Law Association	143

CONTENTS.	xiii
	PAGE
The Chamber of Commerce	145
The idea of the League	147
The corn question in Parliament	149
Resentment of the Repealers	151
The lecturers in the country	153
Hostilities in the press	155
Condition of the rural poor	157
New settlement in business	159
Marriage	161

CHAPTER VII.

THE CORN LAWS.

Huskisson's legislation	163
The Corn Bills of 1827-8	165
Attitude of political parties	167
The Whig budget	169
Defeat of the Whigs	171

CHAPTER VIII.

COBDEN ENTERS PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION.

The new Parliament	175
First speech in Parliament	177
Protest against the philanthropists	185

CHAPTER IX.

COBDEN AS AN AGITATOR.

Friendship with Mr. Bright	191
Their different characteristics	193
Cobden's oratorical qualities	195
His personality	197
Feeling toward his countrymen	199
His faculty of veneration	201
Conditions of usefulness	203
Practical energy	205
Genial ideas	207

CHAPTER X.

THE NEW CORN LAW.

The autumn campaign	211
The League press	213

	PAGE
Thackeray and Carlyle	215
Discussion in the Cabinet	217
The Ministerial plan	219
Feeling in the country	221
Cobden's speech on the plan	223
The country party and the Manufacturers	225
Disappointment of the League	227
New Projects	229
Attitude of the Clergy.	233

CHAPTER XI.

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S NEW POLICY.

The Imports Committee	235
Sir Robert Peel's position	237
The new tariff	239
Cobden's impressions	241
Speech on the state of the country	245
Reply to Sir Robert Peel	247

CHAPTER XII.

RENEWED ACTIVITY OF THE LEAGUE—COBDEN AND SIR ROBERT PEEL—
RURAL CAMPAIGN.

The League and the workmen	249
Renewed activity	251
Cobden in Scotland	253
Mr. Bright upon Scotland	255
Speech on Lord Howick's Motion	257
Scene with Sir Robert Peel	259
Mr. Roebuck's attack	263
Feeling in the country	265
Reply to the Manchester address	267
Meetings at Drury Lane	269
Agitation in the counties	271
Cobden's position	279
Questions in Parliament	283
Occupations in the recess	285
Distrust of the Whigs	289

CHAPTER XIII.

THE SESSION OF 1844—FACTORY LEGISLATION—THE CONSTITUENCIES.

Statistics of agitation	291
The Session of 1844	293

CONTENTS.	XV
	PAGE
The condition of England	297
Factory legislation	299
English forms of Socialism	303
The forty shilling franchise	305
Cobden's views on this franchise	307

CHAPTER XIV.

BASTIAT—NEW TACTICS—ACTIVITY IN PARLIAMENT—MAYNOOTH GRANT— PRIVATE AFFAIRS.

Bastiat's visit to England	309
Bastiat and Cobden	311
Seventh year of the League	313
Change of tactics	315
Effect of Cobden's speech	317
Argument of the speech	319
The argument	321
Cobden's influence on Peel	323
Prospects of the question	325
The Maynooth Grant	327
Letters to Mrs. Cobden	329
Private embarrassments	331
Letter from Mr. Bright	335

CHAPTER XV.

THE AUTUMN OF 1845.

The Edinburgh letter	339
The Ministerial crisis	341
Renewed agitation	343
Proffer of office to Cobden	345
Sir Robert Peel and his party	347
Sir Robert Peel's conversion	349
Operations of the League	351
Reconciliation with Sir Robert Peel	353

CHAPTER XVI.

REPEAL OF THE CORN LAWS AND FALL OF THE GOVERNMENT.

State of public opinion on repeal	357
Difficulties of Peel's position	359
Attitude of the Whigs	361
Proceedings in Parliament	363
Letter to George Combe	365
Cobden's view of his own position	367

	PAGE
Letter to Mr. Hunter	371
The miseries of popularity	373
Miscellaneous correspondence	375
Progress of the Corn Bill	377
London society	381
Third reading of the Bill in the House	383
The Bill passes the Upper House	387
Peel's final tribute to Cobden	389

CHAPTER XVII.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH SIR ROBERT PEEL--CESSATION OF THE LEAGUE.

Cobden's letter to Peel	390
Peel's reply	397
Letter from Lord John Russell	403
Peculiar work of the League	405
New projects	409
Reflections on social progress	411
The National Testimonial	413

CHAPTER XVIII.

TOUR OVER EUROPE.

Omens of revolution in Paris	417
Cobden's popularity among strangers	419
Interview with Louis Philippe	421
In Spain and Southern France	423
In Italy	425
At Rome	427
Interview with the Pope	433
The Campagna	435
Naples and Turin	437
The Italian Lakes	439
Venice and Trieste	441
Interview with Prince Metternich	443
At Babelsberg	445
Berlin and Potsdam	447
Stettin	449
The Russian Frontier	451
Moscow	453
St. Petersburg	459
Arrived at home	463

APPENDIX.

Letter on the Hours of Labour	464
---	-----