

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

*Books of enduring scholarly value*

### **British and Irish History, Nineteenth Century**

This series comprises contemporary or near-contemporary accounts of the political, economic and social history of the British Isles during the nineteenth century. It includes material on international diplomacy and trade, labour relations and the women's movement, developments in education and social welfare, religious emancipation, the justice system, and special events including the Great Exhibition of 1851.

### **The Letters of Queen Victoria**

This nine-volume selection from the letters of Queen Victoria, with ancillary material, was commissioned by her son, Edward VII, and published between 1907 and 1932, with a gap of almost twenty years between the third and fourth volumes. The editors of the first three volumes, the poet and writer A.C. Benson (1862–1925) and the second Viscount Esher (1852–1930), administrator and courtier, decided that the plan for the selection of letters from the thousands available should be to publish 'such documents as would serve to bring out the development of the Queen's character and disposition, and to give typical instances of her methods in dealing with political and social matters'. Volume 3 covers the period 1854–61, including the events of the Crimean War, and ends with the Queen's anguish at the death of the Prince Consort. It also contains an index to the first three volumes.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# The Letters of Queen Victoria

VOLUME 3: 1854–1861

EDITED BY A.C. BENSON  
AND REGINALD BRET, VISCOUNT ESHER



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.  
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108077781](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108077781)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2014

This edition first published 1907

This digitally printed version 2014

ISBN 978-1-108-07778-1 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.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published  
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with,  
or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

THE  
LETTERS OF QUEEN VICTORIA  
VOL. III

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



*H.M. Queen Victoria, H.R.H. The Prince Consort and Children  
From the Picture by F. Winterhalter  
at Buckingham Palace*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# THE LETTERS OF QUEEN VICTORIA

A SELECTION FROM HER MAJESTY'S  
CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE  
YEARS 1837 AND 1861

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF  
HIS MAJESTY THE KING

EDITED BY ARTHUR CHRISTOPHER BENSON, M.A.  
AND VISCOUNT ESHER, G.C.V.O., K.C.B.

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOL. III

1854-1861

LONDON

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET, W.

1907

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*Copyright in Great Britain and Dependencies, 1907, by*  
H.M. THE KING.

*In the United States by Messrs LONGMANS, GREEN & Co.*

*All rights reserved.*



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTER XXIII

1854

	PAGE
The Eastern Question—Attacks on the Prince—The French alliance—The Orleans family—The Reform Bill—The Baltic command—The British ultimatum—Departure of the Guards—War declared—Cabinet dissensions—Austrian interests—The Sultan—Prussian policy—Marshal St Arnaud—Invasion of the Principalities—Separation of Departments—The Russian loan—Debates on the War—Prince Albert and the Emperor Napoleon—The Crimea—Battle of the Alma—Maharajah Dhuleep Singh—Attack on Sebastopol—Battle of Inkerman—Death of Sir G. Cathcart—A hurricane—Lord John Russell and the Premiership—Miss Nightingale's mission .	1-79

## CHAPTER XXIV

1855

Peace proposals—The Four Points—Offer of the Garter to the Premier—Sufferings of the troops in the Crimea—Resignation of Lord John—The Queen's disapproval—Lord Palmerston as Leader—The	
--	--

v

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
Ministry defeated—Lord Derby sent for—Lord Palmerston and the Leadership—Lord Derby's failure—Lord Lansdowne consulted—Lord John sent for—Disappointment of Lord John—Lord Palmerston to be Premier—Intervention of Lord Aberdeen—The new Cabinet—The Vienna Conference—Resignation of the Peelites—Death of the Czar—Lord Panmure at the War Office—Negotiations at Vienna—Visit of the Emperor—Russia and the Black Sea—Estimate of the Emperor—Retirement of Canrobert—Death of Lord Raglan—General Simpson in command—Lord John resigns—Battle of the Tchernaya—Visit to Paris—At the tomb of Bonaparte—Fall of Sebastopol—Life Peerages—Prince Frederick William of Prussia—Offer to Lord Stanley—France and Austria—Visit of the King of Sardinia . . . .	80-200

## CHAPTER XXV

1856

The Conference—The Queen's determination—Russia accepts the terms—Sardinia and the Conference—Protection of neutrals—The Crimean enquiry—Incorporation of Oudh—Canning succeeds Dalhousie—Unclouded horizon in India—Future of the Principalities—Birth of the Prince Imperial—The Princess Royal—The Treaty of Paris—End of the War—Garter for Lord Palmerston—The Title of Prince Consort—Position of the Queen's husband—Retirement of Lord Hardinge—Appointment of the Duke of Cambridge—Lord Granville's mission—Coronation of the Czar—A Royal proposal—Russian procrastination—Death of Lord Hardinge—The Archduke Maximilian—Affair of Neuchâtel—Death of Prince Charles of Leiningen—Dispute with the United States . . . . .	201-232
--	---------

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

vii

## CHAPTER XXVI

1857

PAGE

The China War—Position of Parties—Defeat of the Government—The General Election—The Divorce Bill—Betrothal of Princess Charlotte of Belgium—The Indian Mutiny—Delhi—Cawnpore—Marriage of Princess Charlotte—Visit of the Emperor Napoleon—Death of Sir Henry Lawrence—Condition of Lucknow—Sir Colin Campbell—Reinforcement of Lucknow—Death of the Duchesse de Nemours—Crisis in the City—Future Government of India—Clemency of Lord Canning—Death of Havelock . . . . .	283-330
--	---------

## CHAPTER XXVII

1858

Marriage of Princess Royal—The Orsini <i>attentat</i> —The Conspiracy Bill—Resignation of the Government—Lord Derby summoned—The new Cabinet—Trial of Bernard—The Emperor and the Carbonari—Capture of Lucknow—Confirmation of the Prince of Wales—The second India Bill—The Oudh Proclamation—Lord Ellenborough's despatch—A crisis—Lord Derby's despatch—Lord Aberdeen consulted—Prerogative of Dissolution—Collapse of the attack—Views of Sir James Outram—Offer to Mr Gladstone—Purification of the Thames—Visit to Cherbourg—British Columbia—The Ionian Islands—The Princess Royal in Prussia—The India Office—Lord Canning's Proclamation—Napoleon and Italy . . . . .	331-392
--	---------

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

## CONTENTS

## CHAPTER XXVIII

1859

PAGE

The Emperor Napoleon and M. Hübner—Attitude of the Pope—Northern Italy—The Queen's first grandchild—Advice to the Emperor Napoleon—Meeting of Parliament—The Indian forces—The Prince of Wales at Rome—Advice to Emperor of Austria—Mission of Lord Cowley—Question of a Conference—The summons to Sardinia—Revolution in the Duchies—The compact of Plombières—The general election—Policy of the Emperor Napoleon—Meeting a new Parliament—Question of neutrality—Debate on the Address—The Ministry defeated—The Garter for Lord Derby—Lord Granville summoned—The rival leaders—Lord Palmerston Premier—Offer to Mr Cobden—India pacified—Victory of the French—The Emperor Napoleon's appeal—End of the War—Ascendancy of France—Views of the Pope—Cavour's disappointment—Meeting of the Emperors—The provisions of Villafranca—Italian policy—Sardinia and Central Italy—The Emperor Napoleon and Lord Palmerston—Invitation from President Buchanan—Pro-Italian Ministers—Objections to Sir J. Hudson—Divorce Court reports . . . . .	393-483
---	---------

## CHAPTER XXIX

1860

The Emperor Napoleon's pamphlet, <i>The Pope and the Congress</i> —Annexation of Savoy—Meeting of Parliament—Sardinian designs—Mr Gladstone's Budget—Scene at the Tuileries—The Emperor and Lord Cowley—The Swiss protest—Death of Prince Hohenlohe—The Indian Civil Service—The Paper
--

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

ix

PAGE

Duties—The Lords and Money Bills—Mr Gladstone and resignation—The Prince of Wales's tour—The Volunteer Review—Flight of the King of Naples—The King's appeal to Queen Victoria—Tour of Prince Alfred—Sardinia and Naples—The Empress of Austria—Betrothal of Princess Alice—Episcopal appointments—Visit of the Empress Eugénie . . . . .	484-534
---	---------

## CHAPTER XXX

1861

Conservative overtures to Lord Palmerston—Illness of King of Prussia—His death—The absorption of Naples—Garter for new King of Prussia—The Provostship of Eton—Lord John and Garibaldi—Death of Duchess of Kent—Bereavement—The war in America—Recognition of the South—Death of Cavour—Death of Lord Campbell—The new Foreign Office—Earldom for Lord John Russell—Swedish politics—The Emperor Napoleon's aims—At Frogmore—Visit to Ireland—Tranquillity of Ireland—The Orleans Princes—The Prussian Coronation—Fêtes at Berlin—The <i>Times</i> and Prussia—Death of King of Portugal—The affair of the <i>Trent</i> —The Compiègne interview—An ultimatum—The Prince's last letter—Illness of the Prince—The crisis—Sympathy—Bereavement—Death of Lady Canning—A noble resolve—Comfort and hope . . . . .	535-609
---	---------

INDEX . . . . .	611
-----------------	-----

## GENEALOGICAL TABLES—

Pedigree No. 1. The House of Hanover . . . . .	} <i>To face p. 660</i>
„ 2. The Ancestry of Prince Albert . . . . .	
„ 3. The Descendants of Queen Victoria . . . . .	

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07778-1 - The Letters of Queen Victoria: Volume 3: 1854–1861

Edited by A. C. Benson and Reginald Brett, Viscount Esher

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

H.M. QUEEN VICTORIA, H.R.H. THE PRINCE CONSORT, AND CHILDREN. <i>From the picture by F. Winterhalter at Buckingham Palace . . . . .</i>	<i>Frontispiece</i>
Field-Marshal LORD RAGLAN, G.C.B. <i>From the picture by Sir Francis Grant, P.R.A., at the Army and Navy Club</i>	<i>To face p. 30</i>
GEORGE, FOURTH EARL OF CLARENDON, K.G. <i>After Sir T. Lawrence, P.R.A. . . . .</i>	,, 54
H.M. EUGENIE, EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH. <i>From a miniature by Sir W. K. Ross at Windsor Castle . . . . .</i>	,, 148
H.M. QUEEN VICTORIA, 1855. <i>From a water-colour painting by F. Winterhalter at Buckingham Palace . . . . .</i>	,, 198
THE MARQUESS OF DALHOUSIE, K.T. <i>From the portrait by Sir J. Watson Gordon in the National Portrait Gallery . . . . .</i>	,, 228
VISCOUNT PALMERSTON, K.G. <i>From the drawing by Sir George Richmond, R.A., in the possession of The Earl of Carnwath . . . . .</i>	,, 292
GEORGE, FOURTH EARL OF ABERDEEN, K.G. <i>After Sir T. Lawrence, P.R.A. . . . .</i>	,, 364
H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES. <i>From a drawing by F. Winterhalter, 1859 . . . . .</i>	,, 410
S. VAN DE WEYER. <i>From a miniature in the possession of V. W. B. Van De Weyer, Esq. . . . .</i>	,, 492
H.R.H. PRINCE CONSORT, 1861. <i>From the picture by Smith, after Corbould, at Buckingham Palace . . . . .</i>	,, 598