





*J Fowell Buxton*

London, John Murray, Albemarle Street, 1843.

# MEMOIRS

OF

SIR THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON,  
BART.

EDITED BY HIS SON,

CHARLES BUXTON, ESQ., B.A.

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“The longer I live, the more I am certain that the great difference between men, between the feeble and the powerful, the great and the insignificant, is *energy*, — *invincible determination*, — a purpose once fixed, and then death or victory. That quality will do anything that can be done in this world, and no talents, no circumstances, no opportunities, will make a two-legged creature a man without it.”

*Extract of a Letter from Sir T. Fowell Buxton.*

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WITH A PORTRAIT AND WOODCUTS

TWELFTH THOUSAND.

LONDON:  
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

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**“ Who is the honest man ?  
He who doth still, and strongly, good pursue ;  
To God, his neighbour, and himself most true.”**  
**HERBERT.**

## PREFACE.

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A GENERAL and very reasonable objection is made against memoirs written by near relatives, and yet the danger to be apprehended from their partiality is not perhaps quite so great as it might seem. At any rate it is not wholly avoided by transferring the task to a stranger. It has been well observed, that “ biographers, translators, editors,—all, in short, who employ themselves in illustrating the lives or the writings of others,—are peculiarly exposed to the ‘ *lues Boswelliana*,’ or disease of admiration.”\* Now a near relative may be especially liable to this infirmity; but then he is especially on his guard against it. He cannot eulogise: he must state facts, and leave the reader to draw conclusions for himself.

The task of compiling my father’s memoirs was placed in my hands by his executors, partly because those whose literary abilities would have pointed them out as fitted for the task, were not at leisure to undertake it; and partly because it involved the perusal of a large mass of private papers, which could not well have

\* Macaulay’s *Essays*, vol. II. p. 146.

who enjoyed intimate communication with him, before I was of an age to share in that privilege.

Since the first edition of this work was published, many anecdotes and letters have been communicated to me, which will be found, I think, to add considerably to the interest of the narrative.

London, 1848

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