
The Lives of the Sheridans, Volume 2

Fitzgerald Percy Hetherington

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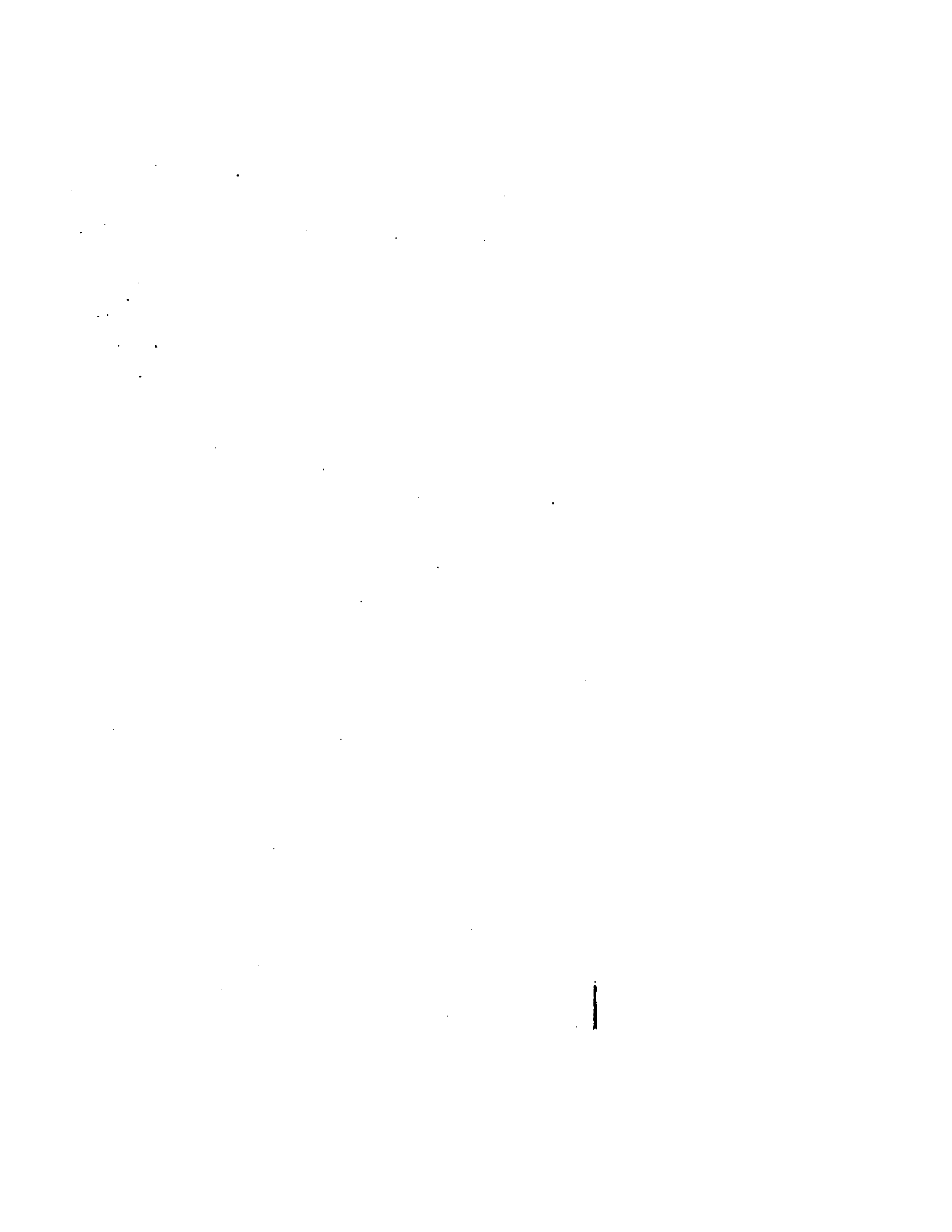
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THE SHERIDANS.







RICHARD BANNESTON GENERAL.

From the original portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

THE
LIVES OF THE SHERIDANS.

BY
PERCY FITZGERALD,
AUTHOR OF
'THE ROMANCE OF THE STAGE,' ETC.

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.



WITH ENGRAVINGS ON STEEL BY STODART AND EVERY.

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P R E F A C E.

MORE than fifty years have elapsed since the appearance of the last editions of Mr. Moore's 'Life of Sheridan.' During the interval a vast number of political memoirs have been issued, of the highest importance, and illustrating in the fullest way the political incidents of the period. In Moore's day the system of publishing confidential papers, diaries, etc., was not in fashion, and his well-finished 'Life,' graceful as it is, like all his work, is meagre, and often wholly silent on some of the most interesting and critical passages in Sheridan's story. The materials are so abundant that it has been a matter of difficulty to keep within reasonable measure; but I have tried to select only what seemed strictly relevant for the illustration of Sheridan's life and character.

This difficulty was particularly felt in dealing with his political life—the familiar and oft-told tale, known to all who have followed the careers of Pitt, Burke, and Fox. But I think it must be