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# **My life and work**

**Muspratt Edmund Knowles**

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Edmund K. Murphy







**MY LIFE AND WORK**  
BY EDMUND KNOWLES MUSPRATT  
LL.D., F.C.S. ETC.  
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## PREFACE

**W**HEN I first began these memoirs five years ago at the request of my family and friends I had no intention of publication, and it naturally took the form of a personal narrative following as nearly as possible chronological order.

The first part I was able to write myself with comparative ease, owing to vivid recollections of my early life, assisted by my sister, Mrs. Harley, who had been my constant companion both when I was a student in Germany and on frequent visits to other parts of the Continent.

My eyesight, however, began to fail, resulting in a short time in almost total blindness, which compelled me to resort to dictation, leading to much inconvenience and difficulties, as in the second and third parts constant reference was required to newspapers and periodicals to ensure accuracy in treating of public affairs which I could not do myself. This accounts for the mixing up of purely personal and family affairs with public events of the time.

When the memoirs were finished and had been read by some of my family and Mr. John Lane, they thought it might be of some interest to a wider circle and urged its publication, to which I assented.

Great changes took place in Europe after the Revolu-

tion of 1848, which turned Italy from what Prince Metternich called "a geographical expression" into a United Kingdom under Victor Emanuel; Germany became united under the dominion of Prussian militarism, culminating in war against France in 1870; and the Civil War in the United States led to the emancipation of the slaves and a change in the constitution of that country. All these movements, in which I took a deep interest at the time when a student in Germany and paying frequent visits to Italy, are touched upon in these memoirs, and may I think prove interesting to readers of the present generation.

As stated above, nearly the whole of this memoir was written before 1913, and the only addition since the outbreak of war has been a chapter on the literary and artistic developments of Liverpool, in most of which I have taken part.

The war of Germany against France in 1870 came to an end in 1871 and France had to submit to the most onerous terms imposed by Germany, including a large war indemnity.

The money received from France was wisely expended in improving education and the means of transport by canal and railway, also in direct support of commerce and industry. The prosperity which followed, rapidly enriching a nation which up to that time had been comparatively poor, exercised a pernicious influence on a large portion of the people, who before the war had been generally antagonistic to Prussian militarism and bureaucratic government, and I am naturally grieved to notice the great change in the character of the Germany I had known in my youth. Most of my old friends have been