A SHORT HISTORY
OF THE ENGLISH PEOPLE

From the Landing of Hengest, 449
To the Death of Elizabeth I, 1610

‘Peace hath her victoies
No less renowned than war.’

Milton’s couplet from the Sonnet to
Cromwell might well describe Green’s
monumental work, the aim of which is
so aptly defined by its full title, A Short
History of the English People. This story
of our island race from the year 449 to
1960 concentrates more on the genera-
tions that have made up the realm than
on a chronicle of its kings and battles.
Green himself said that he had striven
throughout to avoid writing a ‘drum and
trumpet history,’ and considered that
‘war played a small part in the real story
of European nations, and in that of
England its part is smaller than in any.’

Of recent years many of our historians
have followed Green (Trevelyan’s Social
History is a fine example), and the study
of history has become as much a study
of institutions and peoples as of the lead-
ing figures. A Hitler, a Napoleon, a
Nelson are only understood if set within
the frame of their epoch.

Green’s humanitarian history is there-
fore of our age, and because of its vivid,
picturesque style, fit to be placed beside

[Continued on back flap]
Everyman, I will go with thee, and be thy guide,
   In thy most need to go by thy side
JOHN RICHARD GREEN, born in 1837 at Oxford and educated at Jesus College there. In 1860 took Holy orders and in 1866 was appointed incumbent of St Philip’s, Stepney. Retired from the Church in 1869 and became librarian at Lambeth. He died in 1883.
JOHN RICHARD GREEN

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IN TWO VOLUMES · VOLUME ONE

INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY
L. CECIL JANE

WITH A SURVEY OF
THE PERIOD 1815–1960

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