

Foreword
by Sir Michael Atiyah, O.M., F.R.S.

William and Lucy Clifford were a remarkable couple, he a mathematician of genius and an outstanding public speaker, she a literary figure in her own right who was at the centre of a circle of eminent Victorians. Together they spanned the intellectual life of London in its heyday in the 19th century. It is a fascinating story of wide interest and one that fully deserves the loving treatment presented here by Mrs Chisholm. Based largely as it is on the unpublished letters of Lucy Clifford, it is a substantial addition to our understanding of a great period in English history.

William Clifford was a student and a Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge, home of many mathematicians from Isaac Newton onwards. It is therefore entirely appropriate that the College should have assisted in the publication of this book. It is a small tribute to the memory of an exceptional man.