

MY JOURNEY ROUND THE WORLD



Lord Northcliffe.

MY JOURNEY ROUND
THE WORLD (16 JULY 1921
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By ALFRED VISCOUNT NORTHCLIFFE

Edited by CECIL & ST. JOHN HARMSWORTH

With an Introduction and a Map

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TO
HIS MOTHER

INTRODUCTION



THIS is the Diary of Lord Northcliffe, kept by him during his journey round the world in 1921-1922.

Certain biographies of Lord Northcliffe have already appeared, and others are in preparation. He has also been the subject of a great number of articles in the Press at home and abroad. It is believed that some account, in his own words, of a world journey of exceptional interest and importance will be not less acceptable to the large public that followed his career with friendly appreciation.

Lord Northcliffe's habit was to dictate his observations to one or other of the private secretaries who accompanied him on his travels, and to send sections home to be duplicated and circulated to the members of his immediate family circle. In the present volume the chapters correspond generally with the sections as they were received.

The reader will observe that in the course of the Diary Lord Northcliffe dwells more than once on the difficulties and disabilities under which it was composed. It was dictated in sultry cabins on board ship in the tropics, and in such moments of leisure on shore as presented themselves in the midst of numberless distractions, and not, therefore, under conditions that most favourably conduce to exactness in literary style or form. Yet, perhaps, Lord Northcliffe's impressions could not have been better conveyed. The abrupt and often unconnected

paragraphs reflect vividly the operations of an eye that nothing escaped, and of a mind of swiftest perceptions.

In regard to two political questions of more than national importance, Lord Northcliffe was called upon to take a leading part, and he devoted to them all the resources of his tireless and unselfish nature. The under-population of Australasia had long been a matter of grave concern to him, and he permitted no consideration of personal inclination or convenience to hinder him from presenting to the people of Australia and New Zealand his earnest and mature views on this unpopular subject. No less firmly resolved was he to make his views clearly and unmistakably heard on the Anglo-Japanese Agreement, a source, as he knew, of so much misgiving and misunderstanding in the United States. A more easeful pilgrim might have excused himself, and reasonably, from any participation in these raging controversies, but they touched very closely the mainsprings of Lord Northcliffe's public action—namely, his devotion to the welfare of the Empire and to the cause of Anglo-American friendship. The complete independence of his position in relation to parties and policies at home gave weight and authority to opinions on both subjects that were expressed by him everywhere, and at all times, with all his accustomed fearlessness and vigour.

The work of editing the Diary has involved a certain responsibility. In the composition of a narrative addressed to his family circle, and never intended for publication, Lord Northcliffe was under no obligation to measure too nicely his language in dealing with personalities or problems. We have not hesitated to eliminate the few passages that might conceivably have given rise to idle gossip or to useless controversy.

A sad truth revealed in the Diary is that the long holiday—perilously overdue—in quest of health and recuperation for a mind and body exhausted by the labours of many years, developed from the first on lines that were calculated to defeat rather than to promote, the all-important object in view. The holiday became an arduous tour of exploration into the problems

of the Empire, and there is no doubt that Lord Northcliffe arrived home in February of last year less fit to resist the ravages of a serious illness than when he set out on his travels, with so much happy confidence, in July, 1921.

THE APPENDICES

In Sydney and Melbourne Lord Northcliffe was too busily occupied to write more than a few brief notes. He supplemented these with passages from the Press of the two Australian capitals. For convenience and to avoid an abrupt interruption of his own narrative, this matter has been removed to the end of the volume, and is there printed as Appendices I and II. In Appendix III are given some passages from Lord Northcliffe's most authoritative statement on the subject of immigration into Australasia.

Lord Northcliffe's companions at different stages of the world tour were—

HARRY GARLAND MILNER, his brother-in-law.

H. WICKHAM STEED, then Editor of *The Times*.

W. F. BULLOCK, New York correspondent of *The Daily Mail*.

KEITH MURDOCH, now Editor of *The Herald*, Melbourne.

JOHN PRIOLEAU, principal private secretary.

HAROLD W. SNOAD, assistant private secretary.

H. PINE, chauffeur.

"FREDERICK," valet.

In conclusion, we desire to acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr. John Prioleau and to Mr. Harold Snoad for the assistance they have rendered in preparing this volume for the press.

C. H.

St. J. H.

January, 1923.

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