

**THE INFLUENCE OF KING
EDWARD, AND ESSAYS
ON OTHER SUBJECTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649049158

The Influence of King Edward, and Essays on Other Subjects by Reginald Baliol Brett Esher

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REGINALD BALIOL BRETT ESHER

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THE INFLUENCE OF
KING EDWARD

AND ESSAYS ON OTHER SUBJECTS

BY THE VISCOUNT ESHER, G.C.B., G.C.V.O.

LONDON
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET W.

1915

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NOTE

I WISH to acknowledge gratefully the kindness of the editors of the *Times*, the *Westminster Gazette*, the *New Statesman*, and the *National and Quarterly Reviews*, who have permitted the reprinting of the essays contained in this volume.

E.

June 23, 1914.

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THE CHARACTER OF KING EDWARD VII.

“NEVER was British Prince baptized under happier circumstances than Edward, Prince of Wales, the son of Queen Victoria. At a period of all but universal peace throughout the world, such as can scarcely be paralleled since the great epoch from which our religion takes its date, a peace cemented not merely by mutual interests and the bonds of a common civilization, but by the growing recognition of deeper principles of duty—at this period our new Edward takes upon him the vows of a soldier in what is pre-eminently the kingdom of peace. Our hopes of the era which will be known to posterity by his name may rise, in this respect, to a far higher flight than the half-inspired prophecy of the Roman poet, who wrote that, in the golden age of his Pollio,

“Erunt etiam altera bella,
Atque iterum ad Trojam magnus mittetur Achilles.”

“Our First Edward ravaged Scotland and Wales; our Third Edward, and his son, the gallant Black Prince, carried desolation into France. But Scotland and Wales belong to *this* Edward, and he to Scotland and Wales; and France is the nearest and most honoured ally of his Mother’s Crown. May it be his office to consolidate good-will and unity throughout the world, and may war never be heard of in his time.”