

DISRAELI

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Disraeli by Evelyn Baring Cromer

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EVELYN BARING CROMER

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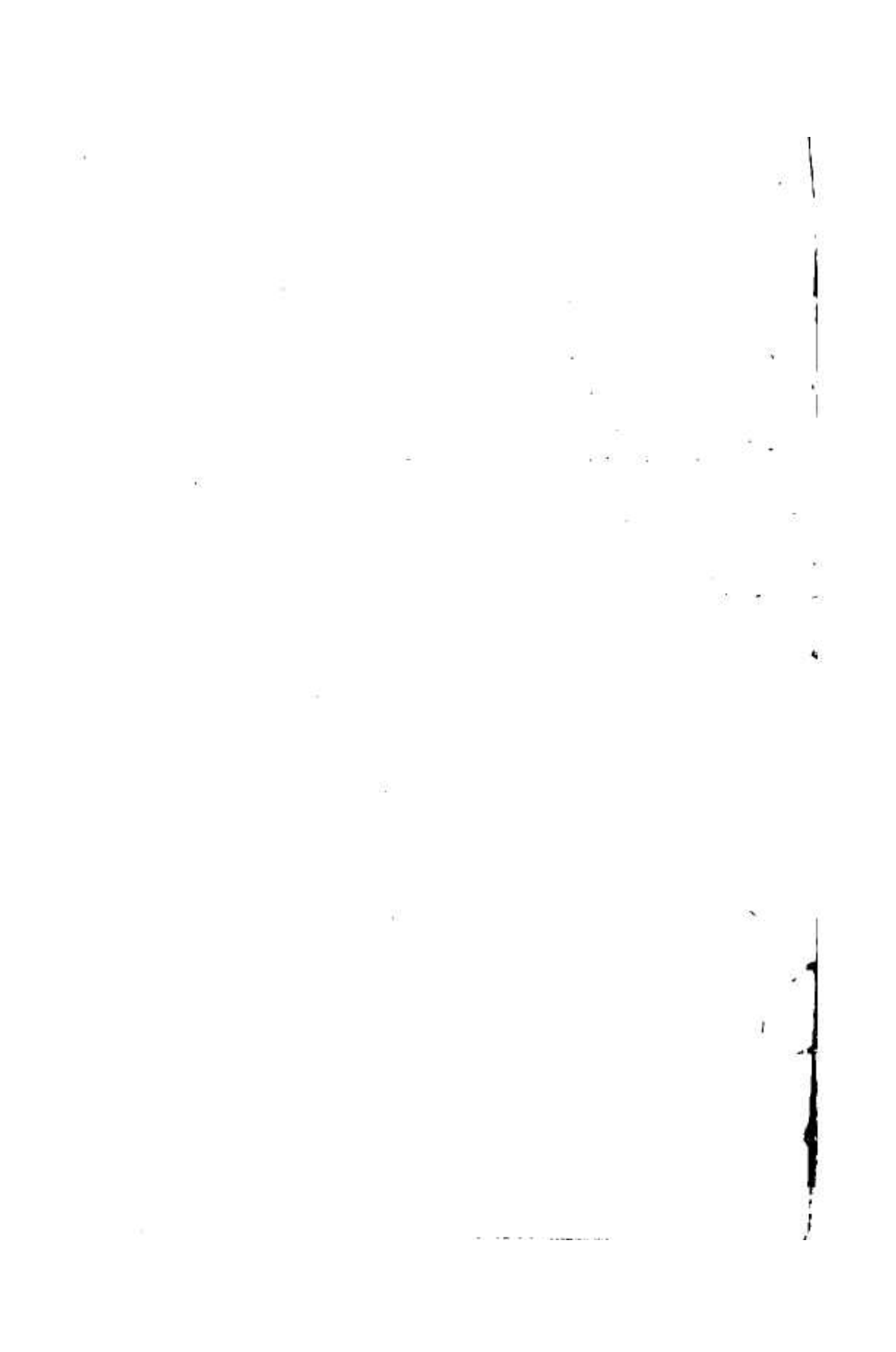
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PREFACE

A TRUE appreciation of the late Lord Beaconsfield's character and career is more than a matter of purely academical and historical interest. A whole group of politicians has grown up of recent years who appear to take Lord Beaconsfield as their model. Their reasons for adopting this course fail to convince me. It appears to me that it is desirable that the aspect of the case which I have ventured to represent should be stated. Hence the production of these articles, which originally appeared in the *Spectator*, and are now reprinted by the kind permission of the editor of that journal.

CROMER.

December 1912.



DISRAELI

No one who has lived much in the East can, in reading Mr. Monypenny's volumes, fail to be struck with the fact that Disraeli was a thorough Oriental. The taste for tawdry finery, the habit of enveloping in mystery matters as to which there was nothing to conceal, the love of intrigue, the tenacity of purpose—though this is perhaps more a Jewish than an invariably Oriental characteristic—the luxuriance of the imaginative faculties, the strong addiction to plausible generalities set forth in florid language, the passionate outbursts of grief expressed at times (i. 177) in words so artificial as to leave a doubt in the Anglo-Saxon mind as to whether the sentiments can be genuine, the spasmodic eruption of real kindness of