

**LAST COUNSELS OF
AN UNKNOWN
COUNSELLOR**

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Last Counsels of an Unknown Counsellor by John Dickinson & Evans Bell

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JOHN DICKINSON & EVANS BELL

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COUNSELLOR**

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OF AN
UNKNOWN COUNSELLOR.

"Is she worth keeping? Why, she is a pearl,
Whose price hath launch'd above a thousand ships,
And turn'd crown'd kings to merchants."

"Tis mad Idolstry
To make the Service greater than the God."

SHAKESPEARE, *Troilus and Cressida*.



JOHN DICKINSON, ÆT. 60.

LAST COUNSELS

OF AN

UNKNOWN COUNSELLOR,

JOHN DICKINSON,

BARRISTER-AT-LAW, F.R.A.S., F.R.G.S., ETC., ETC.

EDITED BY

MAJOR EVANS BELL,

AUTHOR OF "ANTHROPOLOGY AND PROSPECTS OF INDIAN POLICY", "THE OCEAN AND THE INDIAN",
"THE MYSTERY OF SAVANNAH", ETC.



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1877.

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T. RICHARDS, FRISTAL, 37, GREAT QUEEN STREET.

TO
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE GEORGE THOMAS,
SIXTH EARL OF ALBEMARLE,

ETC., ETC., ETC., ETC.

MY LORD,

When I asked your Lordship to accept this little book at my hands, I had not seen your charming "Fifty Years'" recollections, nor was it until it had received the stamp of a cheap edition, that I ascertained its one great deficiency. Although every one has read therein of some Indian adventures, and of the memorable journey home by an almost untrodden route, no one could learn from its pages what I had long ago learned from the pages of *Hansard* and from the correspondence of my late dear friend, John Dickinson, that the young Staff officer's brief experience had borne good fruit, in a season and in a field where the labourers were few and the toil uninviting.

Of those who, between 1853 and 1857, protested in Parliament against abuses and negligence in Indian administration, and against the policy of destroying local self-government and proscribing native genius, only one, to my knowledge, Sir Erskine Perry, now occupies a consultative position at the India Office, or holds any place under Government. Official honours, executive recognition and popular applause, have

been alike withheld from those who, in common with your Lordship, and for the most part in communication with John Dickinson, fought, with little immediate success, the uphill fight of that critical and portentous period. But, my Lord, their labour was not lost; it has influenced and affected all subsequent action of the Crown and the Legislature towards India. Nor shall honour be always denied them. The light of history, under which many a coronet and many a star of those days must yet grow dim and lustreless, will sooner or later display the truth. When the full record is laid open, the name of John Dickinson, the unknown counsellor of Princes and Statesmen,—with which your Lordship has allowed me to associate your own,—will be more brightly illuminated, and will be seen to deserve even a larger meed of honour and public gratitude than I have claimed for it at present.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obliged and most obedient servant,

EVANS BELL.

November 1877.
