

ALL & SUNDRY

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All & Sundry by E. T. Raymond

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E. T. RAYMOND

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UNCENSORED CELEBRITIES

By E. T. RAYMOND

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Fifth Impression.

"Some exceedingly frank portraits of public men are contained in a book with the curious title of 'Uncensored Celebrities,' which Messrs. Fisher Unwin publish. The author, Mr. E. T. Raymond, is mercilessly careful to explain in his preface that the work is 'not meant for the hero-worshipper.'"—*Evening Standard.*

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BY

E. T. RAYMOND

AUTHOR OF
"UNCENSORED CELEBRITIES"

T. FISHER UNWIN, LTD.
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PREFACE

SHORTLY after the appearance of my former volume, "Uncensored Celebrities," I received a letter from a lady who earnestly advised me to quit the part of a "sort of malicious Debrett," and go in for genuine fiction, for which, she was kind enough to say, I seemed eminently qualified.

I should have suspected satire but for one fact. In their kindly and indeed generous references to my work, the public critics seemed to convey the same impression of detecting a deliberately depreciative intention on the part of the author. Now every man has his vulnerable point. Unlike Mr. Pott, I could bear being called an ungrammatical twaddler; I should reflect that English grammar is a very uncertain thing, and that twaddle is largely a matter of individual fancy. I am not in the least concerned when a very learned critic accuses me of misquoting Mr. Lorrimer; if I did so, it was with as little consciousness as M. Jourdain talked prose. But I should not like to be thought malicious.

Let me, therefore, hasten to explain that if I have examined with some coolness considerable

figures in politics and letters, it is with quite other motives than the satisfaction of a desire to deal caustically or irreverently with established reputations. What I do feel is that in this country the excessive reverence paid to the "accredited hero" is not a good but a bad thing. It means that the politician, once arrived, can do much as he chooses, which is bad for the country and not good for the politician. It means that our merchants of ideas, once well established on the bookstalls, can sell us pretty well what they like. It means that a "name," however obtained, exerts the influence that should only attach to a reality. It means, finally, that the public does not get the best out of its older men (since their second best is readily accepted), while the younger talent has a hard task in getting recognition, or even a living. And it is young talent, above all, of which the country stands most in need.

Of the sketches assembled in this volume, a number appeared in *Everyman*, and others in *The Outlook*.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE PRINCE OF WALES - - - -	9
MARSHAL FOCH AND MARSHAL WILSON - - - -	17
PRESIDENT WILSON - - - -	23
VISCOUNT HARCOURT - - - -	31
THE BISHOP OF LONDON - - - -	39
SIR ALFRED MORITZ MOND - - - -	47
GEORGES CLEMENCEAU - - - -	55
MR. JOHN BURNS - - - -	61
MR. G. K. CHESTERTON - - - -	68
LORD SYDENHAM OF COMBE - - - -	77
SIR ERIC GEDDES - - - -	85
MR. FRANK BRANGWYN, B.A. - - - -	92
DEAN INGE - - - -	99
SIR JOHN SIMON - - - -	106
SIR ALBERT STANLEY - - - -	115
MR. F. S. OLIVER - - - -	124
MR. T. P. O'CONNOR - - - -	134
SIR HENRY DALZIEL - - - -	143
MR. HILAIRE BELLOC - - - -	154
THE DUKE OF SOMERSET - - - -	163
SIR THOMAS BEECHAM - - - -	169
MR. RUDYARD KIPLING - - - -	177
VISCOUNT CHAPLIN - - - -	186