

THE BENCH AND BAR OF ENGLAND

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The Bench and Bar of England by J. A. Strahan

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J. A. STRAHAN

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BAR OF ENGLAND**

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JAMES
ANDREW BY
J. A. STRAHAN
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SECOND IMPRESSION

William Blackwood and Sons
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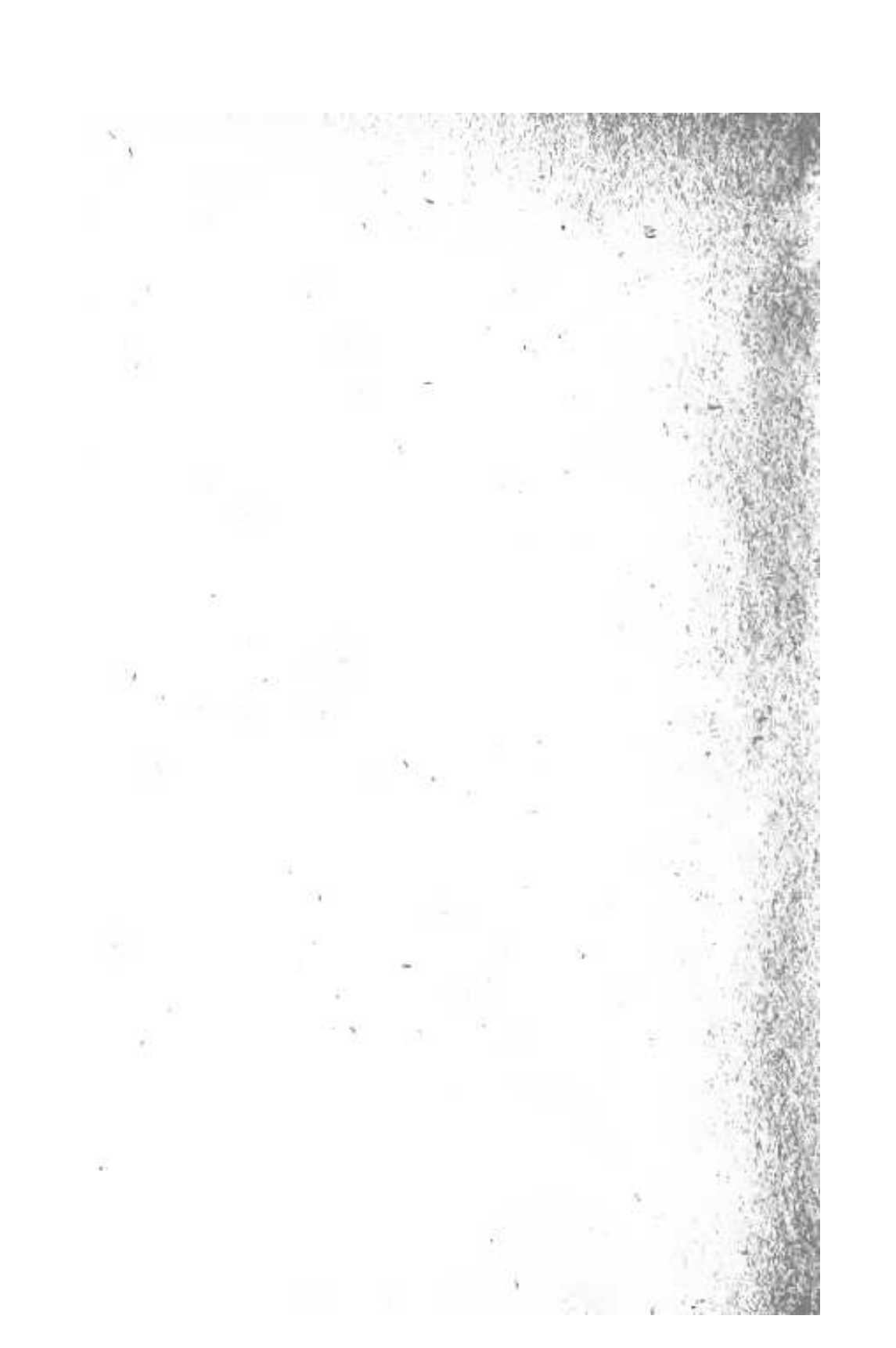
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TO
NORAH MARY STRAHAN,

TO WHOM,
IF TO NO ONE ELSE,

THESE RECOLLECTIONS AND REFLECTIONS
OF HER FATHER MAY BE INTERESTING.



PREFACE.

COME next January, it will be just forty years since I was entered of the Middle Temple. Since then I have practised at the Criminal Bar, gone the Midland Circuit, and been an Equity draftsman and conveyancer in succession; for about a dozen years I was on the reporting staff of a law paper, when my duties necessitated my spending nearly all day, nearly every day, in Court; and practically ever since my call I have been

a writer of law-books and a lecturer and examiner in law in both England and Ireland. From all which it will appear that my personal experiences of law and lawyers, though they may not be very deep, are sufficiently broad and varied. It is on these personal experiences that the following rambling recollections and reflections are based.

An Irish judge being asked what a certain writer meant by entitling the narrative of his adventures in foreign parts his personal experiences there, answered that he did not quite know, but lawyers used the term personal to describe things that are not real. That observation does not apply in my case. My personal experiences are real: what I say I have seen or heard I have in fact seen or heard,

though of course I cannot say whether the things I have seen were not make-believe, and the things I have heard were not romance.

No doubt some of the anecdotes which I have given as illustrations, and which I have not given as from my own observation, are, as I have said of one of them, rather well found than well founded. When I remember with any sureness where or from whom I first heard any of them, I have given it in the text. But many of them are from no definite source, being common gossip of the Bar; and many others came, I believe, to my knowledge through my long friendships with the late Mr T. H. Carson, K.C.; with my former colleague, Mr Arthur Underhill of the Chancery Bar; and with