

ECONOMICS OF THE HOUR

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Economics of the hour by J. St. Loe Strachey

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J. ST. LOE STRACHEY

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OF THE HOUR**

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I desire to express my thanks to Messrs. Macmillan and Co. for allowing me to publish in this volume extracts from several chapters in two books dealing with economic subjects written by me and published by them—*Industrial and Social Life and the Empire* and *The Problems and Perils of Socialism*.

J. ST. L. S.

¶ THE ADVENTURE OF LIVING

which Mr. Strachey called 'A Subjective Autobiography,' was published last September at 20/- by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton, London, E.C. 4.

¶ This book's reception, and indeed its sale, has been one of the remarkable events of the publishing world in late years. It was very widely and extraordinarily appreciatively reviewed.

¶ For instance, Mr. John Buchan wrote of it in *The Times* :—

'Childhood in an old Somerset manor, a boy's first excursion among books, Balliol in the late 'seventies, the life of a successful journalist in London, the policy of an independent editor in crises like the Home Rule and Tariff Reform controversies, an immense and varied acquaintance with politicians, writers, and soldiers in two hemispheres—it is a rich quarry from which to draw material. I confess to finding the early chapters the most attractive, for it is not often that a busy man in after life retains such sharp impressions of youth. Mr. Strachey's vivid sketches of his ancestors, his exquisite portrait of his father, Sir Edward Strachey, the picture of the nurse, Mrs. Leaker, whose mother had known a soldier of Blenheim and from whom he learned his agreeable habit of quotation—these are things which we rarely find in modern memoirs . . . it is all a plain record of partialities and sympathies, complete and incomplete, set down with gusto and candour and something of the undress of good talk. It is a remarkable achievement, for it succeeds in being self-revealing without immodesty and cheerful without complacency. The reason, I think, is that the writer, while wholesomely interested in himself, is equally interested in everybody else. It is this generosity which has made him one of the best talkers of our day . . . the book is a story of enjoyment. . . . Mr. Strachey was content to be accused of underrating his readers' intelligence and explaining the obvious, since there is no fixed rule by which to define the obvious. In a word, he understood his countrymen. That is why he has been, and is, a great editor.'

HODDER AND STOUGHTON LIMITED
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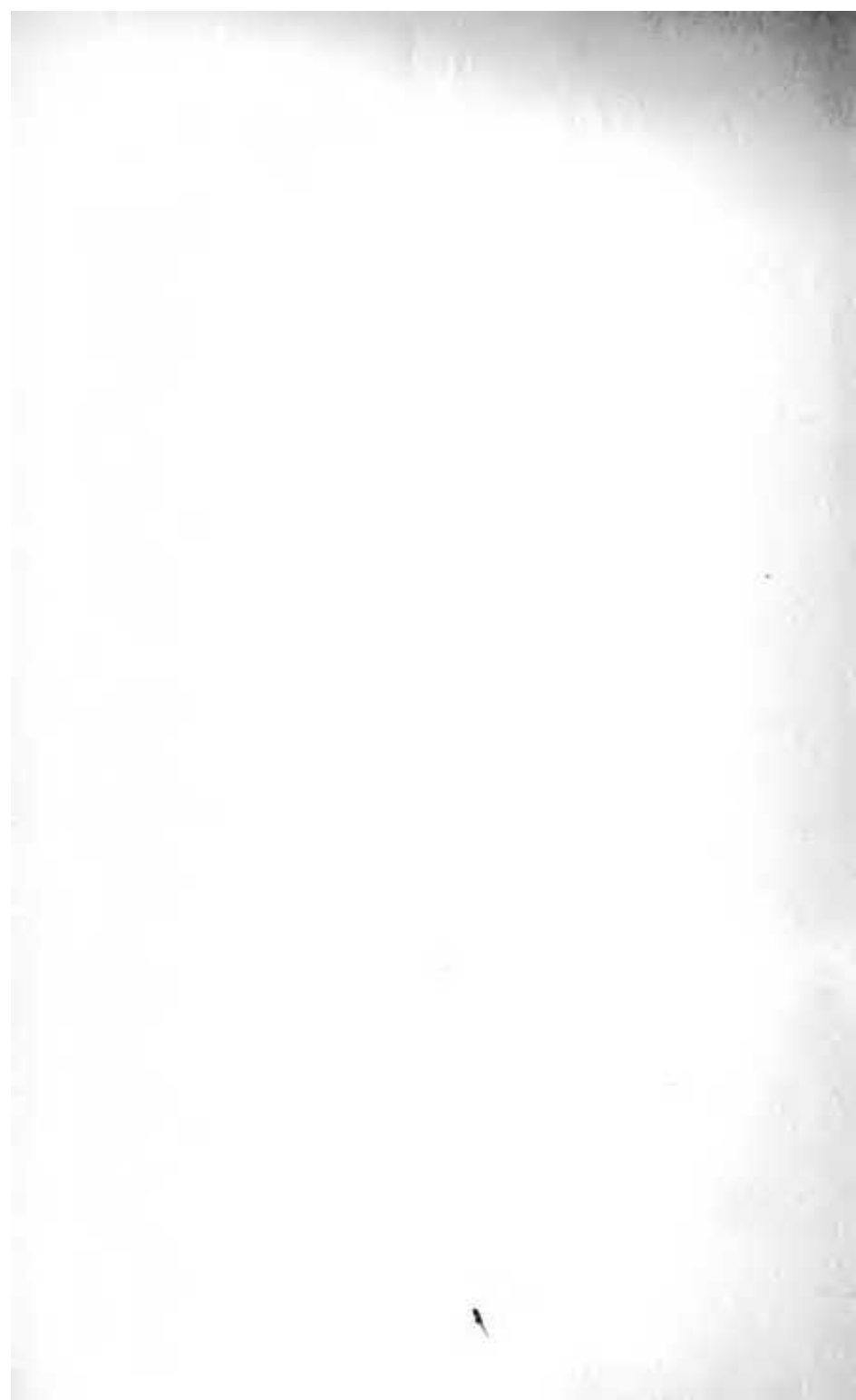
EDITOR OF 'THE SPECTATOR'

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TO
THE WORKING MOTHERS
OF ENGLAND



TO THE WORKING MOTHERS OF ENGLAND

CARLYLE told the world that there were two men 'and none other' whom he honoured and revered—the labourer and the scholar. Though I share that homage, there is one whom I must put higher, and for whom my reverence is fuller, deeper, and better deserved—the working mother.

There is none nobler than She. We glory, and rightly, in the soldier's courage, but beside that of the mothers and wives of those who labour, even it grows pale.

These fight their fiercest battles unaided. They are alone on an outpost duty that never ceases. Their own greatness of heart is their only force in support, the only reserves on which they can rely. But they have to be their own officer, as well as their own second line. In their homes, which is their workshop as it is their life, they have to prepare and to foresee, to encourage and to inspire, to heal and to defend.

But, alas! too often there is none to do for them what they do so naturally, so inevitably, for others. We men are more apt to demand comfort of body and of soul than to bestow it.

The isolation of the inner life of the working mother, coupled with its solitary, physical turmoil, makes her outlook very different from that of those whom she so deeply influences. She does not, like the greater part of mankind, pass her time acting in association with others,