

**MEMORIES AND
RECORDS. VOLUME
TWO, RECORDS**

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Memories and records. Volume two, Records by Lord Fisher

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LORD FISHER

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MEMORIES
AND RECORDS

VOLUME TWO



Photo J. Russell and Sons

1862. CAPTAIN OF H. M. S. "INFLEXIBLE"

MEMORIES AND RECORDS

BY
ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET
LORD FISHER

IN TWO VOLUMES
WITH PORTRAITS AND
ILLUSTRATIONS

VOLUME TWO
RECORDS

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Preamble

THE main purpose of this second Volume is obvious from its title. It's mostly a collection of "Records" confirming what has already been written, and relates almost exclusively to years after 1902. As Lord Rosebery has said so well, "The war period in a man's life has its definite limits"; and that period is what interests the general reader, and for that reason all attempt at a biography has been discarded.

In our present distress we certainly want badly just now Nelson's "Light from Heaven"! Nelson had what the Mystics describe as his "seasons of darkness and desertion." His enfeebled body and his mind depressed used at times to cast a shade on his soul, such as we now feel as a Nation, but (if I remember right) it is Southey who says that the Sunshine which succeeded led Nelson to believe that it bore with it a prophetic glory, and that the light that led him on was "Light from Heaven." We don't see that "Light" as yet. But England never succumbs.

PREFACE

NAPOLEON at St. Helena told us what all Englishmen have ever instinctively felt—that we should remain a purely Maritime Power; instead, we became in this War a Conscript Nation, sending Armies of Millions to the Continent. If we stuck to the Sea, said Napoleon, we could dictate to the World; so we could. Napoleon again said to the Captain of the British Battleship “Bellerophon”: “Had it not been for you English, I should have been Emperor of the East, but wherever there was water to float a ship, we were sure to find you in the way.” (Yes! we had ships only drawing two feet of water with six-inch guns, that went up the Tigris and won Bagdad. Others, similar, went so many thousand miles up the Yangtze River in China that they sighted the Mountains of Thibet. Another British Ship of War went so many thousand miles up the Amazon River that she sighted the Mountains of Peru, and there not being room to turn she came back stern first. In none of these cases had any War Vessel ever before been seen till these British Vessels investigated those waters and astounded the inhabitants.)

Again, Napoleon praised our Blockades (*Les Anglais bloquent très bien*); but very justly of our Diplomacy he thought but ill. Yes, alas! What a Diplomacy it has been!!! If our Blockade had been permitted by the Diplomats to have been effective, it would have finished the War at once. Our Diplomats had Bulgaria in their hands and lost her. It was “Too Late” a year after to offer