

**THE AFTERMATH OR
GLEANINGS
FROM A BUSY LIFE**

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The aftermath or gleanings from a busy life by Hilaire Belloc

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HILAIRE BELLOC

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THE AFTERMATH.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"The student could desire nothing better than this wonderfully compact little guide, which seems to us to say the last word upon the matter of modern journalism. It is written, moreover, in a weighty redundant style, which is in itself a most valuable object-lesson to the beginner and a model of all that contemporary letters should be."—*The Journalist*.

(The organ of the Trade).

" . . . very repetitive and tiresome stuff . . ."
—Mr. AMADEUS (a notorious liar), writing in *The World of the Pen*.

" . . . Admirable . . . most admirable . . . one of the most charming works which have appeared in the English language . . . quite admirable . . . so admirable that we remember nothing like it since Powell's criticism on Charles Lamb, or rather Lamb's Immortal reply to that criticism . . . quite admirable."—*The Chesterfield Mercury*.

" . . . This is a book which those who take it up will not willingly lay down, and those who lay it down will not willingly take up. . . ."—The Rev. CHARLES BROYLE, writing in *Culture*.

" . . . How is it that England, even in her decline, can turn out such stuff as this? What other nation could have produced it in the moment of her agony? The Common Tongue still holds by its very roughness. . . ."—*The Notion*.

(The principal organ of well-bred men in New York, U.S.A.).

Charles Stokes
1910

HILAIRE BELLOC

THE AFTERMATH *or*
GLEANINGS FROM
A BUSY LIFE

CALLED UPON THE OUTER COVER
FOR PURPOSES OF SALE

CALIBAN'S GUIDE TO LETTERS

By H. B.

LONDON
DUCKWORTH & CO.,
3 HENRIETTA STREET, W.C.

Published 1903

Reissue 1910

TO

CATHERINE, MRS. CALIBAN,

BUT FOR WHOSE FRUITFUL SUGGESTION, EVER-READY SYMPATHY,
POWERS OF OBSERVATION, KINDLY CRITICISM, UNFLINCHING
COURAGE, CATHOLIC LEARNING, AND NONE THE LESS
CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLE,

THIS BOOK MIGHT AS WELL NOT HAVE BEEN
WRITTEN;

IT IS DEDICATED

BY

HER OBDIENT AND GRATEFUL SERVANT AND FRIEND
IN AFFLICTION,

THE AUTHOR.

*"O, Man; with what tremors as of earth-begettings hast thou not wrought,
O, Man!—Yet—is it utterly indeed of thee—? Did there not toil in it also
that WORLD-MAN, or haply was there not Some Other? . . . O, Man!
knowest thou that word Some Other?"—CARLYLE'S "Frederick the Great."*

Most of these sketches are reprinted from "The Speaker," and appear in this form by the kind permission of its Editor.

ERRATA AND ADDENDA.

P. 19, line 14 (from the top), for "enteric" read "esoteric."

P. 73, second footnote, for "Sophia, Lady Gowl," read "Lady Sophia Gowl."

P. 277 (line 5 from bottom), for "the charming prospect of such a *bride*," read "*Bride*."

P. 456, delete all references to Black-mail, *passim*.

P. 510 (line 6 from top), for "*Chou-fleur*," read "*Chauffeur*."

DIRECTION TO PRINTER.—Please print hard, strong, clear, straight, neat, clean, and well. Try and avoid those little black smudges!

P R E F A C E .

THIS work needs no apology.

Its value to the English-speaking world is twofold. It preserves for all time, in the form of a printed book, what might have been scattered in the sheets of ephemeral publications. It is so designed that these isolated monuments of prose and verse can be studied, absorbed, and, if necessary, copied by the young aspirant to literary honours.

Nothing is Good save the Useful, and it would have been sheer vanity to have published so small a selection, whatever its merit, unless it could be made to do Something, to achieve a Result in this strenuous modern world. It will not be the fault of the book, but of the reader, if no creative impulse follows its perusal, and the student will have but himself to blame if, with such standards before him, and so lucid and thorough an analysis of modern