

**THE WAR AND AFTER; SHORT
CHAPTERS ON SUBJECTS OF
SERIOUS PRACTICAL IMPORT
FOR THE AVERAGE CITIZEN
FROM A. D. 1915 ONWARDS**

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The war and after; short chapters on subjects of serious practical import for the average citizen from A. D. 1915 onwards by Sir Oliver Lodge

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SIR OLIVER LODGE

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FOR THE AVERAGE CITIZEN
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THE WAR AND AFTER

*Short Chapters on Subjects of Serious
Practical Import for the Average
Citizen from A. D. 1915 onwards*

BY

SIR OLIVER LODGE, F.R.S.

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ETC.



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TO
PRESIDENT WILSON
AT ONE TIME PRINCIPAL OF THE UNIVERSITY
THIS EDITION IS DEDICATED WITH THE
ADMIRATION OF THE AUTHOR

England! the time is come when thou should'st wean
Thy heart from its emasculating food;
The truth should now be better understood;
Old things have been unsettled; we have seen
Fair seed-time, better harvest might have been
But for thy trespasses; . . .
England! all nations in this charge agree:
But worse, more ignorant in love and hate,
Far—far more abject, is thine Enemy:
Therefore the wise pray for thee, though the freight
Of thy offences be a heavy weight.
Oh grief that Earth's best hopes rest all with Thee!

WORDSWORTH, *Sonnet XXI*

PREFACE TO THE AMERICAN EDITION

THIS book was published in 1915 at a time when events were going hard for us. We had no adequate supply of munitions, and our men had to suffer bombardment with severe economy of retort. Since then things have mended, the Nation has provided what is necessary and set its teeth in a firmer grip, but our feelings, whether for friend or foe, have not appreciably changed, and there is practically nothing in the book that need be altered.

Nothing to be changed, but something loud to be added, something that the world is shouting, something vivid in historic significance. One of the great phases of history is being enacted before our eyes—the union of the Dominions and of the New and Old Worlds, a hand-clasp of friendliness across the seas, a beginning of the Federation of the English-speaking race.

Welcome, thrice welcome, are our brethren now definitely enrolled in an unselfish Crusade for freedom and righteousness. Surely this exalteth a nation. Never was the star-spangled banner so glorious as when it was unfurled in a vigorous and decisive effort to bring to nought all that mean and ugly preparation, to counter all that ruthless efficiency, which sought by violence and cruelty to dominate the earth.

A Nation never yet defeated, nor likely to be defeated, has after mature consideration and unexampled patience done even more than was asked

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or expected; it has entered into the struggle as if it, too, had been endangered, has esteemed no sacrifice too great for the nobility of the cause, and now upholds on the distant Continent of Europe the threatened freedom of mankind. The consequences of such an action are not to be estimated by any one generation; they stretch beyond our narrow purview, and will benefit our descendants a millennium hence.

It would surely be well now for every civilised nation to join in, to bear at first hand some of the burden, to feel directly some of the evil, of this atrocious War; and thereafter to meet and decide that civilisation had reached a point at which state-organised brutality and destruction must cease, that underground and undersea miscellaneous slaughter with accompaniments of poison and filth shall never more be regarded as an endurable method of settling international affairs, and that never again shall the discoveries of Science be profaned in this diabolical manner.

If there are special virtues cultivated by war—as in old time there certainly were—we must learn to acquire them by other means. The world is now a unit as it never was before; mankind must learn to behave as one family on this small heavenly body that we call the earth; the cultivation of international friendliness and confidence and honour must be the permanent aim of every statesman worthy of the name; and the present ghastly affront to the peaceful heavens must be the last.

To that end our children must strive, and may God grant them wisdom and insight and courage and faith.

OLIVER LODGE.

PREFACE TO THE ENGLISH EDITION

THE Workers' Educational Association, and other organizations, have provided or recommended for their students a large supply of historical literature connected with the war, and it may be hoped that much of it is being read by those whose voting power—surely under some strange providential guidance—helps to control the conduct of this country's affairs. But the mass of material is so great, and the time for reading so short, that an attempt to concentrate attention on special points and to emphasize some of the more pressing and practical features of the present difficult but hopeful situation, may be useful. It is with this sole but very serious aim that the following chapters have been written.

As I have no pretension to be an historian I shall often quote from other writers when dealing with historical facts and national characters. Of all the readily accessible treatises dealing with the crisis, perhaps the most noteworthy anticipation of current events and impartial survey of the national characteristics which have led to the present outburst is contained in a book called *The Anglo-German Problem*, written well before the outbreak of hostilities and published in 1912 by that distinguished Belgian, Dr. Charles Sarolea, Head of the French Department of the University of Edinburgh. I shall quote a few passages from this book to illustrate the clear knowledge possessed by experts a few years ago.