

**LORD RANDOLPH
CHURCHILL; A STUDY OF
ENGLISH DEMOCRACY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649290758

Lord Randolph Churchill; a study of English democracy by John Beattie Crozier

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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JOHN BEATTIE CROZIER

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LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL

A Study of
ENGLISH DEMOCRACY.

BY
JOHN BEATTIE CROZIER,

AUTHOR OF
'CIVILIZATION AND PROGRESS,' ETC.



LONDON :
SWAN SONNENSCHN, LOWREY & CO.
PATERNOSTER SQUARE.

1887.

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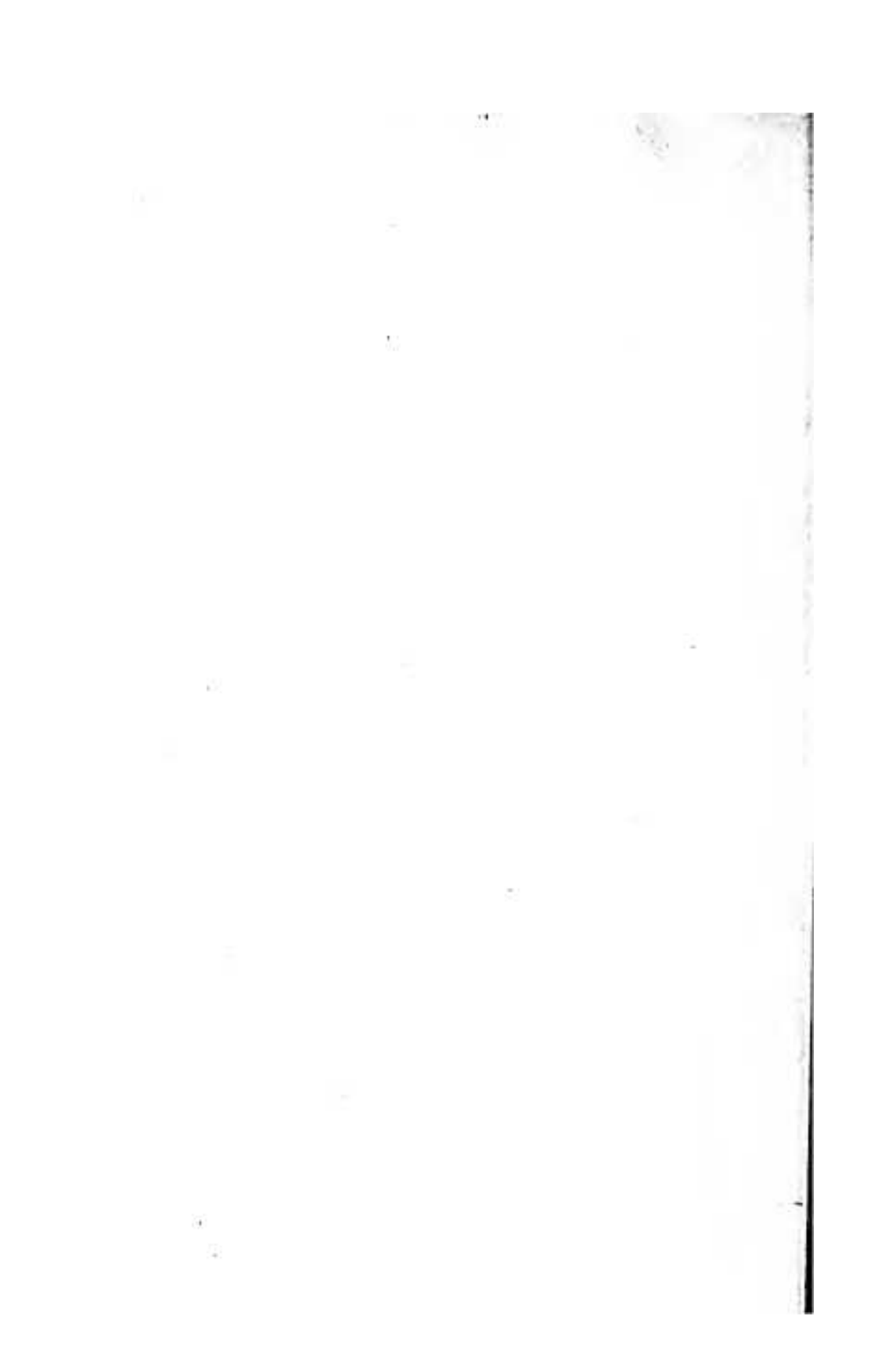
11/11/97
28/6/90

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BREAD STREET WILK, LONDON,
Bungay, Suffolk.

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LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

I PROPOSE in the following pages to examine the political career of Lord Randolph Churchill, his principles, methods, and political aims; to take stock and inventory of the amount and quality of ability and character that have gone to make up his success; and more than all, to discover, if possible, the conditions at present existing in English Politics and Society, which have assisted or permitted such a man, with such intellectual and moral outfit, to rise to his present position of influence and power. In what I have to say I shall, I trust, maintain a perfectly neutral and disengaged attitude, avoiding all subjects of party controversy; I shall assume no political premises but such as may

be admitted with equal readiness by Radical and Tory alike; and shall enunciate no political doctrines but such as may be held with equal sincerity by both.

In selecting Lord Randolph Churchill as a subject for study, I propose to regard him from a *political* rather than from a *personal* standpoint; for however interesting a man may be in himself, for political purposes no qualities however eminent will repay the trouble of investigation, unless the success they have brought to their possessor is an index and symbol of beliefs, prejudices, opinions, and modes of political judgment in the public mind;—of which indeed this very success is itself the product and outcome. Now did I believe that Lord Randolph Churchill had been thrust into power by aristocratic pressure, that his political rise and ultimate success were due entirely or even largely to the accident of birth, or were, as was the case formerly, the appanage of a particular family, I should have nothing to say. I should feel that the public had had no part in determining his career, that it might have witnessed his elevation without admiration, as it would have acquiesced in his degradation without censure, and accordingly I

should pass him by unheeding. But it is because it is claimed for him by his admirers and a large section of the public, that his rise has been due almost entirely to his superiority in ability and character, that I am forbidden to pass him by; and that his career, by the light it throws on men's political judgments and modes of thought, is so pregnant with interest and instruction at the present time.

It has been so often repeated that it has almost passed into a truism, that the success of modern popular governments will depend largely on the kind of men in whom the People choose to repose confidence. However this may be, there can be little doubt that in such men, and especially in the circumstances of their rise, you may see what it is that the political public regard as ability, and what, for the time being at least, they regard as great and admirable. And, accordingly, believing as I do that in the rise of Lord Randolph Churchill you have imaged as in a mirror many if not all the vices, weaknesses, and illusions which still hang around the neck of Democracy and drag it down; and feeling the vast and supreme importance of this subject to all thinking minds (standing as we