

**ESSAYS,
SPECULATIVE
AND POLITICAL**

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Essays, speculative and political by Arthur James Balfour Balfour

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ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR BALFOUR

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AND POLITICAL**

ESSAYS
SPECULATIVE AND POLITICAL

BY THE
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FOUNDATIONS OF BELIEF," ETC.

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PREFACE

IN this volume I have collected Essays, Lectures and some occasional pieces written during the last twelve years. They touch on subjects of the most varied character, ranging from a revue of M. Bergson's *L'Evolution Créatrice* to brief Notes on "Zionism" and "The Freedom of the Seas." I do not expect, I need hardly say, that even the most friendly reader will take an interest in them all; though perhaps he may, here and there, find something to meet his individual tastes.

I have roughly divided them into groups, about one of which a special word of explanation and apology is perhaps necessary—the group relating to Germany. Of these the first in date is an article on Anglo-German relations, written at the request of Professor Dr. Ludwig Stein in 1912 for the well-known periodical *Nord und Süd*; the second is a review of Treitschke's Lectures on "Politics"; the third is the Note on "The Freedom of the Seas" already referred to; and the last is a reprint of the Official Dispatch on the Allied objects in the War

which I wrote in January 1917. Of these the first was written entirely for German readers; the third, in the main, for American friends; while the fourth was the British reply to President Wilson's request for a statement of the objects of the Entente Powers in the War. All these Papers were occasional, and one of them was official; but, in a certain sense, they form a series representing the contemporary thoughts of at least one individual concerned with the various stages in the great drama which ended in June 1919.

To some readers the Paper of 1912 may seem lacking in the emphasis of its warnings. But it was written, as I have already said, for the German public, at the request of a German editor, who, without doubt, sincerely desired to improve the relations between Germany and Britain. The object was a laudable one, with which I heartily sympathised; and it certainly would not have been promoted by the adoption of too controversial a tone.

As the interest of some of these Papers, if they have any interest, depends in part upon the date at which they were written, I have in no case altered the sense of the text, though here and there I have made slight verbal improvements.

My thanks are due to the Editors of the various

PREFACE

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books and journals in which any of these Essays may have originally appeared for permission to republish them.

A. J. B.

WHITTINGEHAME,
October, 1920

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PART ONE: SPECULATIVE
I: DECADENCE