

**THE PAGEANT OF  
PARLIAMENT,  
VOL. I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649158911

The pageant of Parliament, vol. I by Michael MacDonagh

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**MICHAEL MACDONAGH**

**THE PAGEANT OF  
PARLIAMENT,  
VOL. I**



THE PAGEANT OF PARLIAMENT

VOL. I

## CONTEMPORARY P O R T R A I T S :

Men of My Day in Public Life.  
By the Rt. Hon. Sir ALGERNON  
WEST, Author of "Recollections,"  
"One City and Many Men."  
With many Illustrations. Demy  
8vo, cloth. 18s. net.

Sir Algernon West, at one time secretary to Mr. Gladstone when Prime Minister, and who has filled a number of important official positions, is well qualified by his personal experience and the number of his acquaintances in the upper regions of the official world to write this book, which includes reminiscences of Sir Louis Mallet, Lord Blachford, Lord Sandford, Sir E. May, Lord Welby, Matthew Arnold, Sir E. Bradford, and many others. Sir Algernon West, as his previous work shows, is a delightful raconteur, and the present is one of the most informing and charming he has written.

T. FISHER UNWIN LTD. LONDON



# THE PAGEANT OF PARLIAMENT

BY

MICHAEL MacDONAGH

AUTHOR OF "THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE"  
AND "THE REPORTERS' GALLERY"

VOL. I

T. FISHER UNWIN LTD  
LONDON : ADELPHI TERRACE



*First published in 1921*



*(All rights reserved)*



## 6 THE PAGEANT OF PARLIAMENT

of Commons, told a story which serves to illustrate the difference between theory and experience. When Sir William Anson, the author, as Mr. Lowther truly said, of "a very grave and almost classical work" on the British Constitution, was being escorted up the floor of the House of Commons to take the oath and his seat for the first time, an old and witty Radical member who happened to be sitting beside Mr. Lowther said to him: "Is this the gentleman who has written a great work on the House of Commons?" "Yes, that is the very man," replied Mr. Lowther. "Well," the other remarked, "he will find it a very different place from what he thought it was." It is idle for historical writers to try to depreciate the importance of personality in affairs. Certainly in Parliament it is personality that, even more than opinion, is the determining factor in every great political crisis.

I trace the progress of a Parliament, its unfolding and development, from the General Election, when it is constituted by the votes of the people, until the day the Sovereign, on the advice of the Cabinet, pronounces the sentence of its dissolution. I describe its framework and machinery, its chief officers, its ceremonies, usages and customs, its contrasts of solemnity and gaiety; the Party forces which move it and direct its course; how Administrations are made; the duties of Ministers; the pleasures and woes of the M.P.; how Public and Private Bills are passed; how Supplies are voted; the mode in which the proceedings of both Houses are reported for the newspapers; and the varied elements, aspects and usages of Parliament, whether it be regarded as the historic temple of British liberties, equally ancient and venerable with Westminster Abbey over the way; the scene of great achievements in oratory and statesmanship; the institution by which, as the incarnation of the current political thought of the day, questions affecting the well-being of the community are determined by legislators and administrators, or the field upon which the continuous and exciting duel between Parties is fought at close quarters, with all the whims, oddities, weaknesses of human nature as well as with its noble qualities. I have made some excursions into the domain of history.