

**OBITER
SCRIPTA, 1918**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649021963

Obiter scripta, 1918 by Frederic Harrison

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Cover @ 2017

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FREDERIC HARRISON

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BY

FREDERIC HARRISON

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"OLIVER CROMWELL," "WILLIAM THE SILENT," "WASHINGTON,"
"CHATHAM," "ON SOCIETY," ETC.

LONDON

CHAPMAN & HALL, LTD.

1919

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To

WILLIAM LEONARD COURTNEY, M.A., LL.D.,
Etc., Etc.

WHO ACCEPTED THESE OCCASIONAL NOTES IN
THE GREAT *REVIEW* OF WHICH HE HAS BEEN
DIRECTOR FOR 25 YEARS, AND TO WHICH
THE WRITER HAS BEEN A CONTRIBUTOR
FOR 54 YEARS

PREFATORY NOTE

THESE Notes on events and books of the day were published in the *Fortnightly Review* month by month during the last year of the Great War, in 1918. The twelve Parts correspond to the months from January to December, inclusive. As they stood as the first article in each number, they had to be written in the first half of the month preceding that in which they appeared. Thus Part I. was composed about December 12, 1917, and Part XII. was composed just before the Armistice of November 11. It was not found necessary to make any addition, qualification, or excision of the Notes. They are now re-issued by request precisely as they appeared last year.

Bath, May 1919.

OBITER SCRIPTA

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PART I

The War of Nations becomes a War of Class

THE dominant, urgent fact which stares us in the face in a supreme hour of strife is this. The War of Nations is being entangled with, is merging into, the war of Class: about sovereignty, ranks, upper and lower Orders; but, essentially, between those who hold Capital and those who Work with their hands. National wars, as we see, unite men in nations: Class wars suppress the spirit of nationality, for they herald what Socialists promise as the grander form of Patriotism, the brotherhood of the labourers. At the opening of the great European War Democracy was appealed to, and nobly it answered the call in the name of the Nation. But, in this fourth year of war, we see all over Europe how democratic patriotism is expanding into the new Industrial Order which dreamers for two generations have imagined as the Social Revolution.

The Thrill of Russian Revolution

Russia, as one of these dreamers said, "led the way." Chaos, anarchy, plunder, terrorism for the hour are masters in that huge, amorphous, unstable