

Notes on

*The Mirrors of Downing Street*<sup>1</sup>

By a "Gentleman with a Duster"

New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1921

Lancaster, PA

1921

Right and wrong are in the nature of things. They are not words and phrases. They are in the nature of things, and if you transgress the laws laid down, imposed by the nature of things, depend upon it, you will pay the penalty. (John Morley, quoted on the Title Page.)<sup>2</sup>

Lloyd George,

His responsibility to God and to man is enormous beyond reckoning. Only the future can decide his place here and hereafter. It is a moral universe, and sooner or later the judgements of God manifest themselves to the eyes of men. (Page 16.)

Before the war he did much to quicken the social conscience throughout the world; at the outbreak of war he was the very voice of moral indignation; and during the war he was the spirit of victory: for all this, great is our debt to him. But he took upon his shoulders a responsibility which was nothing less than the future of civilization, and here he trusted not

---

<sup>1</sup> The envelope with title, "Mirrors of Downing Street, Notes on" included both a simultaneous review of two books, *Mirrors of Downing Street* and *The Glass of Fashion: The Mirrors of Washington*, both by the pseudonym "Gentleman with a Duster," and a series of Earl Davis' hand-written notes on *Mirrors of Downing Street*. A separate envelope included Earl Davis' notes on *The Glass of Fashion: The Mirrors of Washington*.

<sup>2</sup> All of the text in this document appears to be transcribed by Earl Davis from the book, *Mirrors of Downing Street*.

to vision and conscience, but to compromise, makeshift, patches, and the future of civilization is still in the dark. (Page 16.)

Lord Carnock, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron, Arthur Nicolson, 1849, Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs, 1910-16.  
Lord Carnock,

One evening in London I mentioned to a man well-versed in foreign affairs that I was that night meeting Lord Carnock at dinner. "Ah," he exclaimed, "the man who made the war!"

I mentioned this remark to Lord Carnock. He smiled and made answer, "What charming nonsense!" I asked him what he thought was in my friend's mind. "Oh. I see what he meant," was the answer, "but it is a wild mind that would say anyone man made the war." Later, after some remarks which I do not feel myself at liberty to repeat, he said: "Fifty years hence I think a historian will find it far more difficult than we do now to decide who made the war." (Page 21.)

But there is no living politician who watched so intelligently the long beginnings of the war or knew so certainly in the days of tension that the war had come, as this modest and gracious gentleman whose devotion to principle and whose quiet faith in the power of simple honor had outwitted the chaotic policy and makeshift diplomacy of the German long before the autumn of 1914 (p. 22.)

Lord Carnock was at the Foreign Office in July, 1914. He alone knew that Russia would fight. [He had by his wise advice during his ambassadorship to St. Petersburg (1905-10) prepared Russia.] ... But this time Russia was ready, and this time Lord Carnock knew Russia would fight. I am not sure that Lord Carnock was not the only statesman in Europe who possessed this knowledge—the knowledge on which everything hung. (Page 24.)

Such a man as Lord Carnock could not make an headway in English political life. It is worth our while to reflect that the intelligence of such men is lost to us in our home government. (p. 26.)

But on the whole it is probable that the political fortunes of this great and beautiful country are committed for many years to hands which are not merely over-rough for so precious a charge, but not near clean enough for the sacredness of the English cause. (P. 27.)