

**THE BISHOP OF
LONDON'S
VISIT TO THE FRONT**

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The Bishop of London's Visit to the Front by G. Vernon Smith

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G. VERNON SMITH

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Photo: Albert Hester

THE BISHOP OF LONDON STARTING FOR THE FRONT

THE
BISHOP OF LONDON'S
VISIT TO THE FRONT

BY THE

REV. G. VERNON SMITH

RESIDENT CHAPLAIN TO THE BISHOP OF LONDON
DEPUTY PRIEST IN ORDINARY TO THE KING

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

THE BISHOP OF LONDON

ILLUSTRATED

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INTRODUCTION

At first I was not certain if I wanted this little book to be written. It is always possible to make too much of a thing, and I thought at first that enough had been said about my visit to the Front. But I found that so many wanted to know more than it had been possible to publish in the short notices of it in the Press that I finally yielded to the persuasions of my old friend, Mr. Longman, to allow this little book to be published. I confess that one thing which influenced me was knowing who was to be the writer, for I knew that I could trust to the good sense and taste of the man who had been asked to write it. In this I have not been disappointed.

If an account was to be written, I cannot imagine one better written than the one that is contained in this book. I had no hand in the composition of it, and did not read it until it was completely finished, but it seems to me an excellent account, very simply

given, of a fortnight which will always live in my memory.

I have not removed the kind expressions occasionally used about myself, as I knew that the writer would feel hurt if I did; but nothing has been said about the affectionate care he took of me all the time, as at once valet, chaplain, and comrade. I could not have had a more helpful comrade in the undertaking.

I feel very thankful that God's blessing seems to have rested from start to finish upon our visit.

A. F. LONDON.

May 1, 1915.

PREFACE

I HAVE tried to describe the main events of the Bishop's visit to the Front, and to put down some of the impressions which came into my mind. The book has been written quickly, while those impressions are still fresh, and I hope, therefore, that faults of arrangement or of style will be overlooked. If the account conveys to anyone some measure of the hope and inspiration which the Bishop's mission brought to me, the book will not have been written in vain.

I am most grateful to the editor of the *Times* for allowing me to quote extracts from the Bishop's article, and to reprint a poem on page 88; and also to the editor of the *Westminster Gazette* and to Mrs. Hare-Wakefield for giving me permission to quote from her poem "Killed in Action." I wish also to thank Sir Henry Newbolt, who has kindly allowed me to use the poem entitled "Farewell," from *Poems Old and New* (John Murray). The book is made more complete as Messrs. Mowbray readily gave permission for the "Bishop's Souvenir" to be reproduced, and my thanks are also due to Mr. Albert Hester, the editor of the *Daily Mirror*, the proprietors of Newspaper Illustrations, Ltd., and the Central News, through whose help it was made possible for it to be illustrated.

GUY VERNON SMITH.

May 1, 1915.