

**TOWARDS
NEW HORIZONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649722822

Towards New Horizons by M. P. Willcocks

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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M. P. WILLCOCKS

**TOWARDS
NEW HORIZONS**

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Novels

THE WAY UP

THE WINGLESS VICTORY

WIDDICOMBE

A MAN OF GENIUS

WINGS OF DESIRE

THE BODLEY HEAD

**Towards
New Horizons**

By
M. P. Willcocks



LONDON: John Lane, The
Bodley Head. **NEW YORK:**
John Lane Company

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THE GREAT
BRITAIN

*Printed in Great Britain
by Turnbull & Spear, Edinburgh*

TO ALL MY FRIENDS

SOME IN PRISON, SOME IN THE ARMY,
AND SOME IN THE LABOUR MOVEMENT,
WHO HAVE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME
TO DESPAIR OF THE FUTURE

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Chapter I.—The Desire of the Nations

ONE of the most painful features of the present time is the feeling of confusion in men's minds. In the midst of deadly international strife the very earth beneath the combatants seems to be shaking as though it were undermined for, although the British worker fights the German worker in the trenches, there is a feeling abroad that only a slight shifting of the wind of passion is needed to set German and British worker against German and British ruling class. It is at present no more than a premonition of possibilities, yet, when the Russian Cadet plays into the hands of the German Junker, and the Soviet Government calls on the German proletariat to make common cause against both, we know that a class war is already emerging where before only a race war had been apparent. We fight, both Allies and Central Powers, on sea and land, but also, and not as mere super-worms of the trenches, in the earth beneath.

We fight also in the clouds, for from an entirely different realm, neither political nor economic, there comes yet another challenge. In many ways it is the most disturbing of all, for there is

nothing public or private that can remain untouched by it. It deals with individuals as with nations, with the humblest as with the greatest: it is called in one phrase "self-determination," in another "the kingdom of God within." It condemns all discipline from without whether applied by a parent, a teacher, a judge, or a political system. It would give autonomy to the Pole, self-government to the Hindu and the Irishman, free discipline to the child, and the open road to the prisoner. It is, as some would put it, the law of "go as you please," or, as others declare, "as God made you": it is the latest unfolding of the spiritual sense in man.

Thus we are at this moment confronted with the greatest racial war the world has ever known, with the promise of a world-wide economic upheaval, already prepared in the world of thought, and, as if these were not enough, with a new faith. The sword of separation is indeed amongst us.

Yet with it all there goes a strange underlying unity of feeling. Men are beginning to dream together: I am in your dream and you are in mine, whoever you or I may be. At this moment there is in us all a sense of change, of old things passing and new ones coming. It is an instinct like that which warns the birds of the coming of dawn even before the first beam of light has topped the horizon. Some birds