

that led up to, and followed the great Crimean climax, which revealed her to the admiration and affection of a grateful humanity. For further detail, those who are interested should consult the splendid *Life of Florence Nightingale*, by Sir Edward Cook, issued in two volumes, in 1913, by MacMillan and Company, London. The appearance of this book, from which the materials for this little sketch are drawn, has been an event in biographical literature. Based upon a thorough study of a mass of written records, including Miss Nightingale's own diaries and voluminous correspondence and many other papers, official and otherwise, not previously laid open to the public, it for the first time presents her story fully and fairly to the world, without sentimental exaggeration, but with the force of actual recorded facts. The story of the "Crimean Muddle," as the situation she was called upon to cope with in the East was picturesquely called, is told with fairness and discrimination, and the history of her activities, both then and in her subsequent life, is accurately detailed. As a result, we find the Florence Nightingale of our traditional knowledge replaced by a somewhat different, but a more human, and, we venture to think, a much greater character,—one in whom the self-devotion and passionate tenderness of heart towards the distressed, for which she has always been immortalized, were combined with an unswerving singleness of aim, a wide clarity of judgment, and immense powers of organization and execution that initiated and carried out far-reaching reforms. Her story, as here learned, is not alone that hackneyed theme, familiar to us all, of a gifted and gentle lady, who, moved with patriotic pity, braved the dangers of the seat of war for the sake of helping the distressed soldiers of a beloved Queen, and who became thereafter the popular heroine of the Victorian Age. The secret of her immense popularity and of