

THE STREET OF INK

CHAPTER I

EARLY REMINISCENCES: MY START IN THE STREET OF INK

LOOKING back over the happy years that I have spent in the Street of Ink I realise more than ever what a fascinating place it is, and how it offers each day new experiences and new prospects that can hardly be paralleled in any other calling. It will be my endeavour in this book to record from my own experiences, and from those of the leading journalists with whom it has been my privilege to come into contact, the story of the modern Press from the intimate, inside point of view. The result can hardly fail to impress more strongly upon the mind of its reader, as it did upon my own, the fact that no career offers more variety, more interest, and more reward for enterprise and grit than the profession of journalist. The history of every paper, be it London or provincial, daily or weekly, newspaper or periodical, is a romance of enterprise, the reading of which could not fail to uplift and encourage the ambitious young man, for whose benefit, as well as for that of every journalist who is proud of his work, this book is written. If I begin with my personal experiences, it is not from egotism but from a desire to illustrate the truth of this statement as I have proved it for myself.

One of my friends asked me once whether I remembered my first business transaction. It took my mind back to my childhood's days—I was actually nine years of age—