

was probably the best person to give me the verdict I wanted. He is a man of varied gifts, who always impresses me as possessing intellectual powers and mental force which will carry him to any heights that he may aspire to. He has gathered an unrivalled knowledge of men and affairs in all parts of the world, and is not only a great writer, but has an intimate knowledge of all the best authors. Added to these qualities he is what I may best describe as a most "understandable" man, who can look at everything with appreciation of the point of view of the average individual. I asked this sympathetic and delightful friend (to whom I am glad to pay this tribute of regard) if he would kindly look through my preliminary manuscript, and made up my mind to abide by what he said.

Sir Gilbert was good enough to say that he was convinced the book would prove a real and valuable addition to knowledge of life in Fleet Street and journalism, and the conception of it then became a definite decision.

Much of the material has appeared week by week in the *Newspaper World*. I received hundreds of letters from journalists all over the country, expressing pleasure and making suggestions, and it became obvious that a book which would bring the history of journalism up to date, and show the developments and enterprise of the Press from an intimate knowledge of the various newspapers and agencies, would be welcome. Along these lines the articles developed, and I set myself to obtain from those whom I met the additional details which would amplify my own experience. In this book portions of the *Newspaper World* articles have been deleted, others have been enlarged, and many entirely new chapters have