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Preface

THE following extracts are from a private diary which the Author wrote whilst on an extensive tour in the United States during the autumn of 1918 as a member of the British University Mission. Our Mission had been invited to the United States by the Council of Defense at Washington and had been sent out under the auspices of the British Foreign Office. For more than sixty days we went up and down a vast country, travelling many thousands of miles, and seeing so many Universities and Colleges and so many Presidents and Professors that those amongst us who had not hitherto had the privilege of visiting the United States formed the idea that all its cities are university cities and that all the inhabitants are professors, an idea very awful to contemplate!

As the Author has tried to indicate in his Dedication, everywhere we went we met with kindness, and kindness that came from the brain as well as from the heart. But especially we owe thanks to certain “guides, philosophers, and friends” who shepherded our steps. One of these, an official of the United States Bureau of Education at Washington, accompanied us on the whole tour. His extraordinary powers of organization, his inexhaustible information, and his ready and self-sacrificing help, cannot be too highly praised. Others who helped us on our trip were: the Secretary of the Reception Committee of the Council (a professor of Harvard), who met us on our arrival at New York and accompanied us to Washington, and later to Boston; the American Secretary of the Rhodes Scholars (a professor of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology), who guided us from Boston to Chicago. From Chicago to Minneapolis we had the great advantage of the presence

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of the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the American Council on Education (a President of one of the leading Colleges in the Middle West); and the President of the University of Kentucky travelled with us from St Louis to Lexington, where his own University is situate. All these gentlemen were ever ready and helpful in explaining the intricacies of American university life. We were fortunate enough to meet them at many centres, and always found the same helpful advice, and care for our welfare. To each and all of them we owe a deep debt of gratitude.

Certain chapters of this *Diary* have appeared in *Scribner's Magazine*, New York, and others in *Country Life*, London. The owners and editors of these monthly or weekly publications have given the author leave to reprint and he thanks them.

A. E. S.

ST GEORGE'S DAY, 1919.

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“It is always a writer’s duty to make the world better.”

DR JOHNSON.