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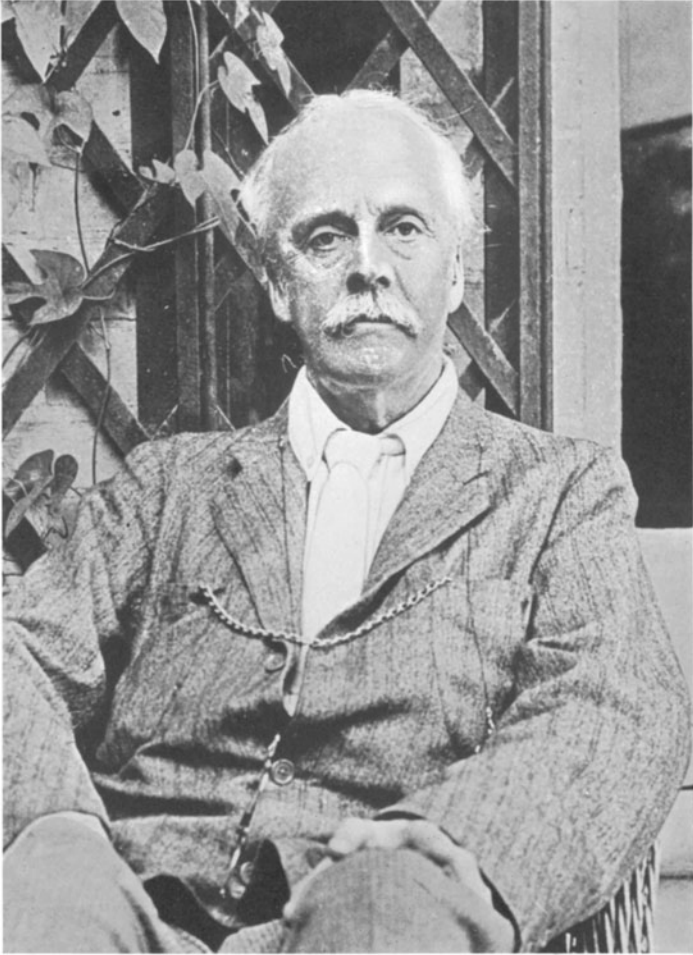
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By
LORD RAYLEIGH



CAMBRIDGE
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P R E F A C E

It is the custom of the Royal Society to publish obituary notices of Fellows deceased. The present Memoir was written at the request of the Council of the Society, and appeared in the *Proceedings*. It has been thought, however, that a different circle of readers would be interested in it, and accordingly it is now republished.

Any attempt to summarise Lord Balfour's public career would have been out of place in the original publication, and is beyond my scope. This Memoir is limited to an account of his early history and mental development, his scientific and philosophical thought, and his administrative work for scientific, industrial, and medical research. In writing it I have been able to draw upon an intimate personal knowledge extending from my own earliest years, on the recollections of surviving relatives, and on the diaries of Balfour's sister, the Dowager Lady Rayleigh. In connection with Balfour's administrative work for science, valuable help has been given by Mr Thomas Jones, C.H., Captain A. F. Hemming,

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PREFACE

C.B.E., Sir Frank Heath, G.B.E., Sir Walter Fletcher, K.B.E., and one or two other officials of the government departments concerned.

I may add that I have not drawn to any appreciable extent on the *Chapters of Autobiography* just published by Messrs Cassell. The present account of Balfour's early life is independent, and represents him and his surroundings as they appeared to other members of the family.

RAYLEIGH

Terling Place
Chelmsford
November, 1930