

FOREWORD

OLD friends of the "Woman of No Importance" have written forewords to her many previous books—famous and knowledgeable men, such as Lords Beresford and Cromer, Sir Alfred Pease, and others, a fact that makes me half afraid to essay the task myself.

But I have asked to be allowed to do so just this once, because I, her son, know her better than anyone, and that should be my justification. For instance, I see in this volume she gives sound advice to young people, and no one can know as well as I do the wonderful wisdom and unfailing soundness of her counsel during the frequent and at times alarming indiscretions of her son.

I have never ceased to marvel at the amazing unselfishness, the infinite sympathy, the pluck of the woman who signs herself "A Woman of No Importance," but she is the Most Important Woman in the world to

HER SON.