



DELPHI  
CLASSICS

# Winston Churchill

Complete Works



Series Thirteen

*The Complete Works of*  
**WINSTON CHURCHILL**

(1871-1947)



**Contents**

*The Novels*

The Celebrity (1898)  
Richard Carvel (1899)  
The Crisis (1901)  
The Crossing (1904)  
Coniston (1906)  
Mr. Crewe's Career (1908)  
A Modern Chronicle (1910)  
The Inside of the Cup (1913)  
A Far Country (1915)  
The Dwelling-Place of Light (1917)

*The Short Stories*

Mr. Keegan's Elopement (1896)  
Faith of Frances Craniford (1917)

*The Plays*

The Title Mart (1905)  
Dr. Jonathan (1919)

*The Poetry*

The Poems of Winston Churchill

*The Non-Fiction*

A Traveller in War-Time (1918)  
An Essay on the American Contribution and the Democratic Idea (1918)  
The Uncharted Way (1940)

*The Delphi Classics Catalogue*

Winston Churchill

© *Delphi Classics* 2023  
Version 1

*The Complete Works of*  
**WINSTON CHURCHILL**



*By Delphi Classics, 2023*

## COPYRIGHT

### *Complete Works of Winston Churchill*



First published in the United Kingdom in 2023 by Delphi Classics.

© Delphi Classics, 2023.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission in writing of the publisher, nor be otherwise circulated in any form other than that in which it is published.

ISBN: 978 1 80170 128 0

Delphi Classics

is an imprint of

Delphi Publishing Ltd

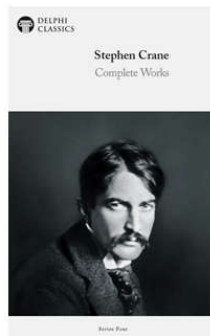
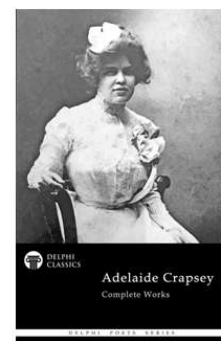
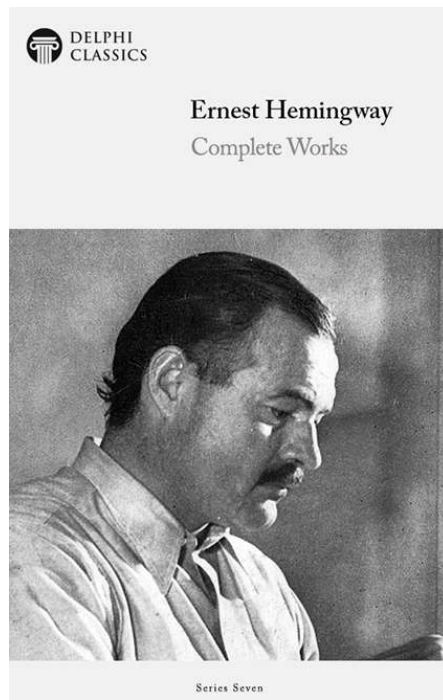
Hastings, East Sussex

United Kingdom

Contact: [sales@delphiclassics.com](mailto:sales@delphiclassics.com)

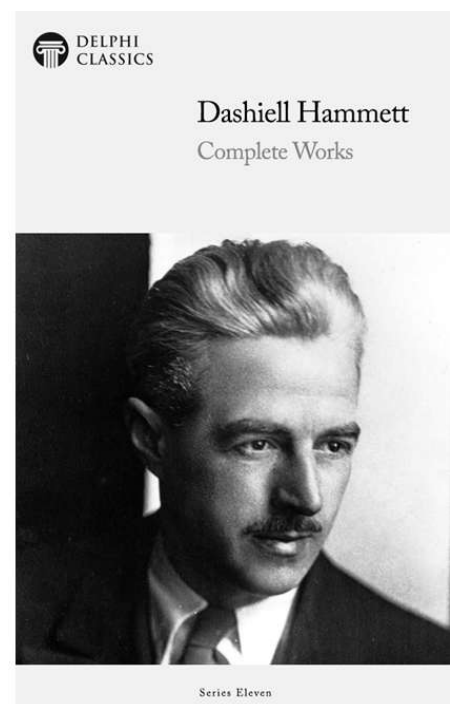
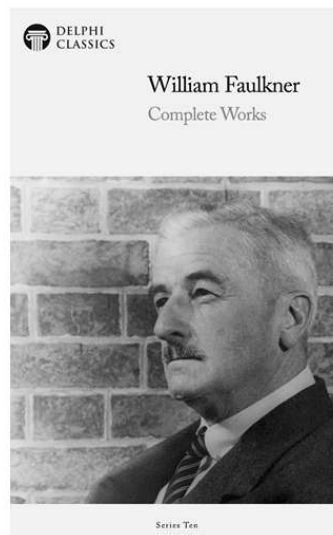
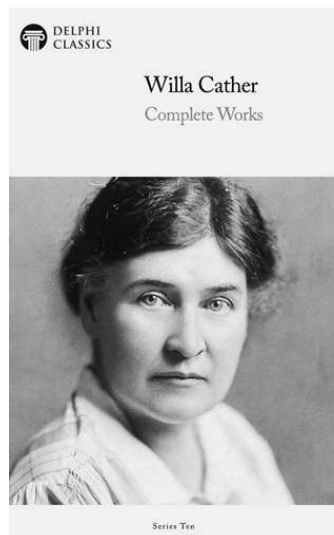


[www.delphiclassics.com](http://www.delphiclassics.com)



*Explore American Masters at Delphi Classics*

Vintage American Classics.



## The Novels



*City of St. Louis and Riverfront, 1874 — Winston Churchill was born in St. Louis, Missouri, the son of Edward Spalding Churchill by his marriage to Emma Bell Blaine.*

## The Celebrity (1898)

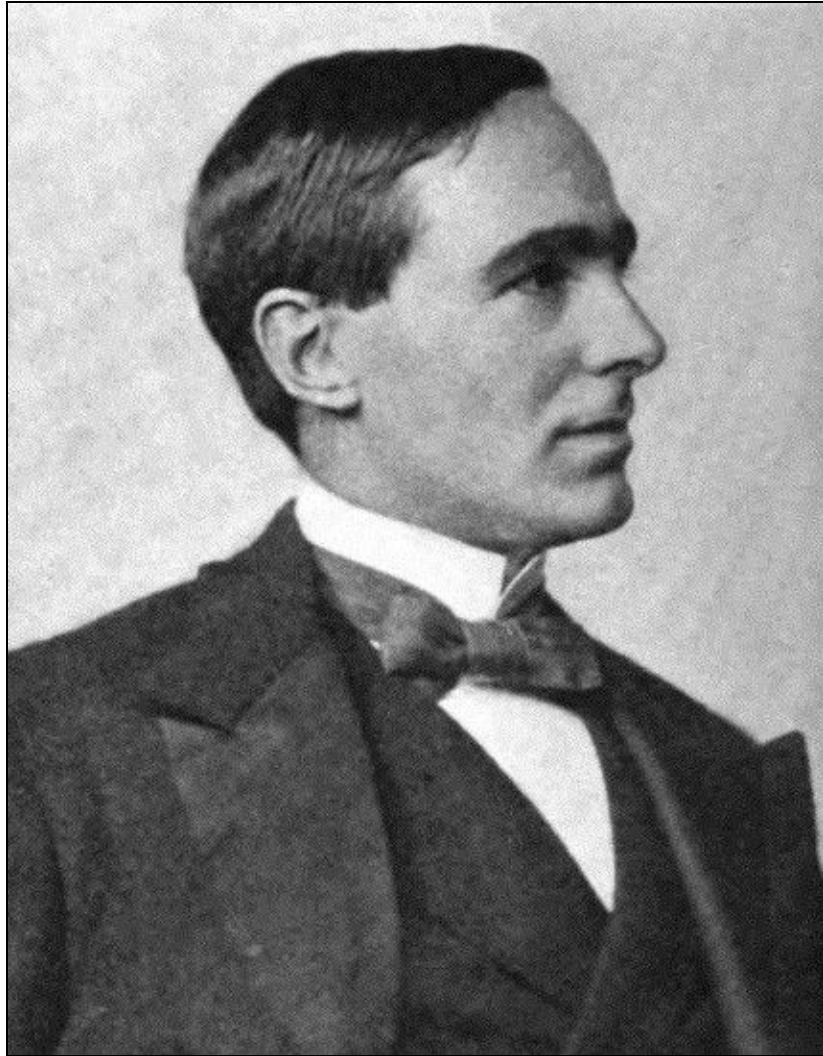


### AN EPISODE

Churchill began to write his first novel shortly after his marriage to Mabel Harlakenden Hall in the autumn of 1895. He completed half of the manuscript before April 1896, when he departed for a five-month long trip to Europe with Mabel. During his time abroad, he continued to work on the novel, although progress was slow. He sent off a finished manuscript to Macmillan in September 1896, but it took another year of revisions before the definitive version was completed and ready for publication. Churchill dedicated the novel to his friend and mentor, Albert Shaw, who had been a great support to him. Shaw was Churchill's senior by fifteen years and he was a man of great intelligence and culture, who edited the reformist monthly journal *American Review of Reviews*.

*The Celebrity* was published in the USA in November 1897 by Macmillan. It is a satirical novel about the eponymous celebrity whose actions do not mirror the moral integrity of his works. The novel is narrated by John Crocker, a lawyer and district attorney, who knew the 'celebrity' years ago, long before he became a famous writer. Crocker unexpectedly encounters the now popular author again during a stay at a summer holiday resort. He soon observes that the 'celebrity' is a shameless and unrepentant womaniser, who is fickle in his affections and dishonourable in his behaviour. The book created a small sensation upon release as reviewers speculated that the title character was based on the famous journalist, war correspondent and literary figure, Richard Harding Davis. Churchill always vehemently denied that Davis was the inspiration for the work, even stating, improbably, that he knew nothing about the prominent journalist.





*Churchill as a young man*



*The dedicatee, Albert Shaw (1857-1947) was a noted journalist and academic.*

## CONTENTS

### *VOLUME 1.*

CHAPTER I  
CHAPTER II  
CHAPTER III  
CHAPTER IV

### *VOLUME 2.*

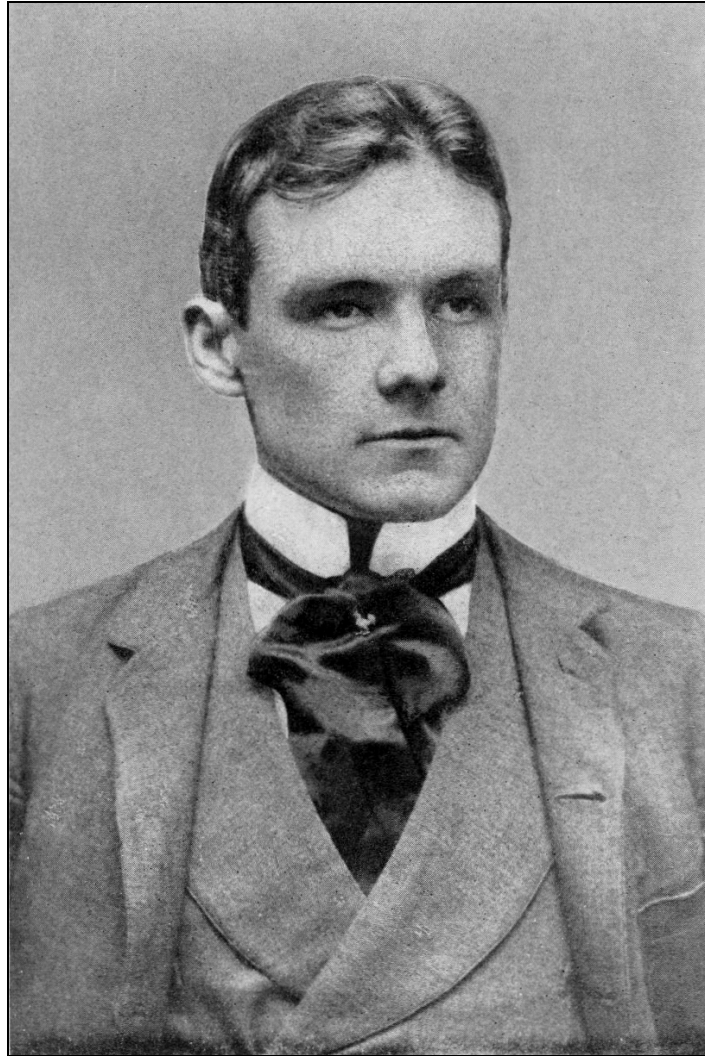
CHAPTER V  
CHAPTER VI  
CHAPTER VII  
CHAPTER VIII

### *VOLUME 3.*

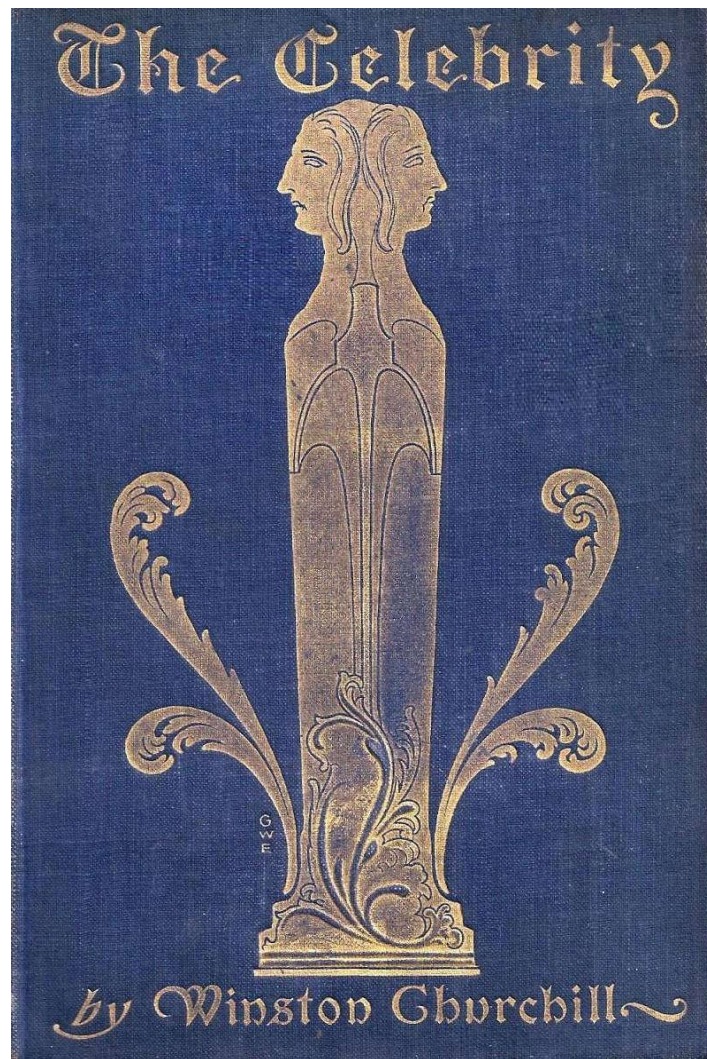
CHAPTER IX  
CHAPTER X  
CHAPTER XI  
CHAPTER XII  
CHAPTER XIII  
CHAPTER XIV

### *VOLUME 4.*

CHAPTER XV  
CHAPTER XVI  
CHAPTER XVII  
CHAPTER XVIII  
CHAPTER XIX  
CHAPTER XX  
CHAPTER XXI



*The possible model for 'The Celebrity': Richard Harding Davis (1864-1916), an American journalist and writer, known foremost as the first American war correspondent to cover the Spanish-American War, the Second Boer War and World War I. His writing greatly assisted the political career of Theodore Roosevelt. He also played a major role in the evolution of the American magazine.*



*The first edition*

# THE CELEBRITY

*AN EPISODE*

BY

WINSTON CHURCHILL

New York

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

LONDON: MACMILLAN & CO., LTD.

1898

*The first edition's title page*

TO

**Albert Shaw, Ph.D.**

**WITH THE AFFECTIONATE REGARDS OF  
THE AUTHOR**

## **VOLUME 1.**





## CHAPTER I



I WAS ABOUT to say that I had known the Celebrity from the time he wore kilts. But I see I shall have to amend that, because he was not a celebrity then, nor, indeed, did he achieve fame until some time after I had left New York for the West. In the old days, to my commonplace and unobserving mind, he gave no evidences of genius whatsoever. He never read me any of his manuscripts, which I can safely say he would have done had he written any at that time, and therefore my lack of detection of his promise may in some degree be pardoned. But he had then none of the oddities and mannerisms which I hold to be inseparable from genius, and which struck my attention in after days when I came in contact with the Celebrity. Hence I am constrained to the belief that his eccentricity must have arrived with his genius, and both after the age of twenty-five. Far be it from me to question the talents of one upon whose head has been set the laurel of fame!

When I knew him he was a young man without frills or foibles, with an excellent head for business. He was starting in to practise law in a downtown office with the intention of becoming a great corporation lawyer. He used to drop into my chambers once in a while to smoke, and was first-rate company. When I gave a dinner there was generally a cover laid for him. I liked the man for his own sake, and even had he promised to turn out a celebrity it would have had no weight with me. I look upon notoriety with the same indifference as on the buttons on a man's shirt-front, or the crest on his note-paper.

When I went West, he fell out of my life. I probably should not have given him another thought had I not caught sight of his name, in old capitals, on a daintily covered volume in a book-stand. I had little time or inclination for reading fiction; my days were busy ones, and my nights were spent with law books. But I bought the volume out of curiosity, wondering the while whether he could have written it. I was soon set at rest, for the dedication was to a young woman of whom I had often heard him speak. The volume was a collection of short stories. On these I did not feel myself competent to sit in judgment, for my personal taste in fiction, if I could be said to have had any, took another turn. The stories dealt mainly with the affairs of aristocratic young men and aristocratic young women, and were differentiated to fit situations only met with in that society which does not have to send descriptions of its functions to the newspapers. The stories did not seem to me to touch life. They were plainly intended to have a bracing moral effect, and perhaps had this result for the people at whom they were aimed. They left with me the impression of a well-delivered stereopticon lecture, with characters about as life-like as the shadows on the screen, and whisking on and off, at the mercy of the operator. Their charm to me lay in the manner of the telling, the style, which I am forced to admit was delightful.

But the book I had bought was a success, a great success, if the newspapers and the reports of the sales were to be trusted. I read the criticisms out of curiosity more than any other prompting, and no two of them were alike: they veered from extreme negative to extreme positive. I have to confess that it gratified me not a little to find the negatives for the most part of my poor way of thinking. The positives, on the other hand, declared the gifted young author to have found a manner of treatment of social

life entirely new. Other critics still insisted it was social ridicule: but if this were so, the satire was too delicate for ordinary detection.

However, with the dainty volume my quondam friend sprang into fame. At the same time he cast off the chrysalis of a commonplace existence. He at once became the hero of the young women of the country from Portland, Maine, to Portland, Oregon, many of whom wrote him letters and asked him for his photograph. He was asked to tell what he really meant by the vague endings of this or that story. And then I began to hear rumors that his head was turning. These I discredited, of course. If true, I thought it but another proof of the undermining influence of feminine flattery, which few men, and fewer young men, can stand. But I watched his career with interest.

He published other books, of a high moral tone and unapproachable principle, which I read carefully for some ray of human weakness, for some stroke of nature untrammelled by the calling code of polite society. But in vain.



*End of Sample*