

**Lord Beaconsfield, and Other Tory Memo-
ries.** By T. E. Kebbel. Pp. xii, 360.
New York: Mitchell Kennerley. \$4.00.

Mr. T. E. Kebbel is frankly a Tory of the Tories. He was born in a Leicestershire vicarage, into a Tory environment; and all thru his long and quietly successful life he has been a Tory journalist. His work brought him into contact with Beaconsfield, Salisbury, Balfour and other of the Tory leaders; and his heart has been in his work, because he is in full sympathy with Tory traditions and principles, and with Tory aims in English politics and social life. He has been content with things as they are in England; with the political and social dominance of the territorial aristocracy, and with the stratification of English social life due to feudal and territorial influences. Mr. Kebbel's acquaintance with Beaconsfield was not long or continuous.

But no other journalist who has published his reminiscences was ever much in personal contact with Beaconsfield; and if Mr. Kebbel's memories are not so intimate as those of Boswell, of Johnson, he comes nearer to being Boswell to Beaconsfield than any man who has yet written of the Tory leader. The chapters in the book—most of which have the virtue of being self-contained—are very uneven in value. Some are distinctly trivial, and scarcely worth publication, even in an English Tory magazine. But the chapters on Beaconsfield are informing; and there are glimpses of electioneering in England, and some insight into Fleet street in the days when Tory writers who believed in the creed they had to preach were not numerous, and the Liberals had distinctly the best of it in the daily press. American readers will find most interest in the chapters which depict social conditions; for these show how party lines and church affiliations divide social England; and especially rural England, where there is no strong and wealthy middle-class, and where consequently, social dominance and to some extent political dominance as well, fall without question to the squire and the parson of the Established Church. It is a long time since the attitude of these big-wigs of rural England toward the farmer, the inn-keeper, the small tradesman, and the agricultural laborer has been so well described as it is in Mr. Kebbel's pages. Radical newspaper writers in England never tire of describing the patronising attitude of the squire and the rector; but Mr. Kebbel writes from the inside, and it is this fact that makes his descriptions of social conditions in rural England all the more significant.