

Lady Curzon's India: Letters of a Vicereine

Mary, Lady Curzon



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Mary Curzon was one of the most remarkable women of her generation. An intelligent and lovely American, the daughter of Levi Leiter, the self-made man who co-founded Marshall Field, she captivated society on both sides of the Atlantic. As the wife of George Curzon, Viceroy of India from 1899 to 1905, she was the youngest woman to become Vicereine and the only American to attain that supreme position. Lady Curzon's letters from India to her family in America draw an informal picture of the Curzons' public and private life that has no parallel in the records of British imperial rule. They are fresh and colorful, describing - often with humor - the durbars, levees, dances and receptions (with sidelong glances at the amusing snobbery of the Anglo-Indians), as well as the physical discomforts and grueling journeys she underwent as Vicereine. These letter also provide the most intimate portrait yet of Lord Curzon, Mary's beloved "Pappy", revealing the devoted husband and father behind the austere public persona of the Viceroy.

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