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BIRD'S EYE VIEW

OF

ENGLISH LITERATURE

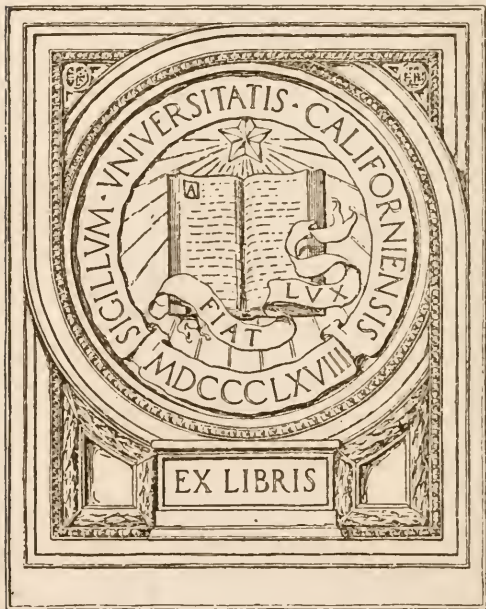
HENRY GREY

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A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF
ENGLISH LITERATURE.

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‘Of incalculable value to those whose reading time is limited.’—*Woolwich Journal*.

‘Another most useful work by Mr. Grey.’—*Y. Greal*.

‘Will be welcome to all classes.’—*York Chronicle*.

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NEW EDITION.

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF
ENGLISH LITERATURE,

FROM THE SEVENTH CENTURY TO
THE PRESENT TIME.

BY

HENRY GREY,

F.R.B.S., F.Z.S., F.I.Inst.,

AUTHOR OF

'AN EPITOME OF THE BIBLE,'
'THE CLASSICS FOR THE MILLION,' 'A KEY TO THE WAVERLEY NOVELS,'
'TROWEL, CHISEL, AND BRUSH,' 'A POCKET ENCYCLOPÆDIA,'
'THE PLOTS OF OLD ENGLISH PLAYS,'
'RESTING WITHOUT RUSTING,' 'ZOO NOTES,'
'SCIENCE NOTES,'
'FOR CONVERSATION WITH THE DEAF,'
'SIXTY-FIVE YEARS' REMINISCENCES,'
ETC., ETC.

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‘ As ’tis a greater mystery in the art
Of painting to foreshorten any part
Than draw it out, so ’tis in books the chief
Of all perfections to be plain and brief.’

S. BUTLER.

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PREFACE.



IN this age of learning, when an acquaintance with English Literature is insisted on at every educational test and competitive examination, and will, in the coming generation, be as indispensable as a knowledge of spelling and grammar, it is thought that the following Synopsis of the names of our most celebrated poets and prose writers, with the dates of their birth and death, their social position, and the titles of their principal works, may prove useful not only to students, but to all

who are anxious to acquire a general idea of the gradual expansion of thought and development of literary talent in the British dominions, since the days when the preaching of St. Augustine moderated the warlike propensities, and awakened the intellectual powers of our Anglo-Saxon ancestors.

H. G.





A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW
OF
ENGLISH LITERATURE.



*Authors' Names, and Social position, and short description
Dates of Birth and Death. of their principal works.*

CAEDMON,
(A.D. 610-680),

the earliest known Anglo-Saxon whose works are preserved, was a monk at Whitby, and wrote *A Paraphrase*, in verse, from the Bible, selecting the most vivid and picturesque incidents as his themes.

BEDE,
NAMED THE
VENERABLE,
(673-735),

the father of English learning, spent his life in a monastery at Jarrow, where he obtained great repute as a scholar and teacher. He wrote, in Latin, *A Treatise on the Nature of Things*, and *A Church History of the English Nation*.

ALCUIN,
(735-804),

was a schoolmaster at York, and, after a journey to Rome, resided for some years at the court of Charlemagne. He was the author of several works, in Latin, on theology, history, mathematics, poetry, and rhetoric.

JOANNES SCOTUS,
ERIGENA,
(810-875),

was a native of Ireland, and the greatest philosopher of the dark ages. He wrote a treatise on *Natural Science*, several theological commentaries, and some poetry.

KING ALFRED,
THE GREAT,
(849-901),

was taught by his mother, and translated the works of several Latin writers for the instruc-

KING ALFRED,
THE GREAT,
(849-901)—
continued.

tion of his subjects. He is also supposed to have originated the first *Anglo-Saxon Chronicles*.

✕ AELFRIC,
(930-1005),

a monk, and afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, wrote *Homilies* on the doctrines of the Anglo-Saxon Church, and made translations from the Old Testament.

WILLIAM
OF MALMESBURY,
(1095-1143),

an Oxford priest, wrote *A History of the Early Kings and Prelates of England*, in Latin, and other works.

✓ GEOFFREY
OF MONMOUTH,
(1102-1154),

Bishop of St. Asaph, compiled *A History of Britain*, based upon older records and Welsh Legends, which became very popular.

LAYAMON,
(1130-1190),

a Worcestershire priest, was the author of a metrical *History of the Colonisation of*

- LAYAMON, *Britain*, named *The Brut*,
 (1130-1190)— which is valuable as a speci-
continued. men of the transition from
 Anglo-Saxon to Early English.
- RANULF, Chief Justice to Henry II.,
 DE GLANVILLE, compiled the earliest *Treatise*
 (1135-1190), *on the Laws and Customs of*
England.
- WALTER MAPES, Archdeacon of Oxford, wrote
 (1143-1210), *The Poems of Goliath*, a satire
 on the clergy, *Court Anecdotes*,
 containing sketches of the
 manners of his time, and
 contributions to *The Romances*
of King Arthur, whose ex-
 ploits were sung by the
 Welsh bards, and became the
 theme for many mediæval and
 modern poems.
- ALEXANDER a friar, was the author of an ex-
 OF HALES, haustive *Theological Treatise*,
 (1185-1245), which was adopted in all the
 schools of Christendom.

- MATTHEW PARIS, a monk of St. Alban's, wrote *A History of the World* from the Creation, which included a record of events in his own lifetime, and is considered a very valuable work.
(1195-1259),
- 7 ROGER BACON, a Franciscan monk, devoted himself to chemical, physical, and mathematical science. His great work is his *Opus Majus*, the encyclopædia of the thirteenth century. He was also acquainted with astronomy and geography, and several ancient languages.
(1214-1292),
- ROBERT OF GLOUCESTER, a monk, composed a rhyming *Chronicle of English History*, consisting of more than ten thousand lines, in the vernacular language of his time.
(1230-1299),
- JOHN DUNS SCOTUS, a professor at Oxford, was an eminent scholar, and earned
(1265-1308),

JOHN DUNS SCOTUS, the name of the 'Subtle Doctor.' He wrote numerous *Commentaries* on theological and philosophical questions.
(1265-1308)—
continued.

NICHOLAS TRIVET, a Dominican monk, was the author of a well-written and trustworthy series of *Historical Annals*, embracing a period of nearly two centuries.
(1285-1328),

ROBERT MANNING, a Lincolnshire monk, was the author of a rhyming *Historical Chronicle* in quaint early English, evincing considerable poetical power.
(1272-1338),

WILLIAM OF OCCAM, a Franciscan monk, earned great reputation as a scholar and philosopher. He wrote several *Theological Treatises*, and supported the German Emperor in his controversies with the Pope.
(1280-1347),

RANULF HIGDEN, a Benedictine monk, wrote
(1280-1367), *A Chronicle*, in Latin called
Polychronicon, a translation of
which, by Trevisa, was after-
wards completed and printed
by Caxton.

SIR JOHN a physician, was the author of
MANDEVILLE, one of the earliest known works
(1300-1372), in English prose, consisting of
a narrative of his *Travels in
the East*, during a period of
thirty-four years.

JOHN OF FORDUN, a priest at Aberdeen, wrote
(1310-1384), *A Chronicle of Scotland* from
the time of Noah.

REV. JOHN WYCLIFFE, an energetic promoter of the
(1320-1384), Reformation, wrote treatises
against the errors of the
Papacy, and made the first
complete *English Translation
of the Bible*.

JOHN BARBOUR, Archdeacon of Aberdeen, was
(1319-1395), the first Scotch poet who used
the English language. He
wrote *The Bruce*, a chronicle
of the career of the famous
King of that name.

WILLIAM LANGLAND, an Oxford fellow, was the
(1332-1399), author of an allegorical poem,
entitled *The Vision of Piers
Plowman*, in which he satirises
the corruptions of the Church,
and depicts various types of
human character. The metre
is alliterative, several words in
each line commencing with
the same letter.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER, a courtier and diplomatist,
(1340-1400), established his fame as the
first great English poet by
his *Canterbury Tales*, a vivid
picture of society in the four-
teenth century, and several
other works.

- ✓ JOHN GOWER, a lawyer, exposed the vices of
(1320-1408), all classes in two poems, en-
titled *The Voice of one Crying*,
and *The Confessions of a Lover*.
- JOHN LYDGATE, a Benedictine monk, was a
(1370-1430), scholar and poet. His three
chief works are *Troy Book*,
The Story of Thebes, imitated
from Chaucer, *Falls of Princes*
and *London Lackpenny*, a satire.
- KING JAMES I. while a prisoner in England
OF SCOTLAND, composed a poem, entitled
(1391-1436), *The King's Quhair*, in praise
of the lady whom he after-
wards married.
- REGINALD PECOCK, Bishop of Chichester, was one
(1395-1460), of the first advocates for
liberty of thought on un-
essential religious doctrines.
- SIR THOMAS an eminent judge, was the
LITTLETON, author of a celebrated work
(1409-1481), on *Tenures*.

- SIR JOHN FORTESCUE, (1395-1485), Chief Justice to Henry VI., wrote a learned treatise on *The Common Law of England*.
- ROBERT HENRYSON, (1423-1495), a Scottish poet, was the author of *The Testament of Cresseid*, a metrical translation of *Æsop's Fables*, and some ballads.
- JOHN COLET, (1466-1519), Dean of St. Paul's, was a zealous promoter of the revival of learning, and wrote several theological and classical treatises.
- WILLIAM DUNBAR, (1460-1520), of St. Andrew's University, commemorated the marriage of James IV. in a poem entitled *The Thistle and Rose*. He also wrote a satire named *The Dance of the Seven Deadly Sins*, and other works.
- GAWIN DOUGLAS, (1474-1522), Bishop of Dunkeld, produced the first English translation of *Virgil's Æneid*.

- ✓ SIR THOMAS MORE, Chancellor to Henry VIII.,
(1478-1535), wrote *Utopia*, an imaginary form of government, in Latin, and some controversial tracts in elegant English.
- WILLIAM TYNDALE, a preacher to the English
(1477-1536), Factory at Antwerp, made *A Translation of the New Testament*, and was the author of several theological treatises in favour of the Reformation.
- ↳ SIR THOMAS WYAT, a courtier, composed *Sonnets*,
(1503-1542), imitated from Italian poetry, in more polished language than any previous writers.
- ↳ HENRY HOWARD, wrote elegant *Love Sonnets*,
EARL OF SURREY, and translated part of *The*
(1517-1547), *Æneid* in blank verse.
- ALEXANDER a Benedictine monk, was the
BARCLAY, translator of *The Ship of Fools*,
(1476-1552), a celebrated German satire, and of *Sallust's Jugurthine War*.

- JOHN LELAND, Chaplain to Henry VIII., and
(1506-1552), the first English Antiquary,
wrote *An Itinerary* of his
travels, and other works.
- SIR DAVID a Jacobite courtier, was the
LYNDSAY, author of *The Dream*, and
(1490-1555), other satirical poems.
- HUGH LATIMER, Bishop of Worcester, was cele-
(1490-1555), brated for his quaint *Sermons*
in favour of the Reformation.
- THOMAS CRANMER, Archbishop of Canterbury,
(1489-1556), wrote several *Controversial*
Treatises, and *A Catechism*.
- JOHN BALE, Bishop of Ossory, wrote
(1495-1563), *Miracle Plays*, and compiled
A Summary of British Authors
in Latin.
- REV. NICHOLAS UDALL, head-master at Eton, com-
(1505-1564), posed the first English
comedy, called *Ralph Roister*
Doister.

- JOHN HEYWOOD, a courtier, was the author of several dramatic *Interludes*, and a large collection of *Epigrams*.
(1500-1565),
- MILES COVERDALE, Bishop of Exeter, took part in *A Translation of the Bible*, and wrote several works against the Roman Catholic doctrines.
(1488-1568),
- ROGER ASCHAM, Public Orator at Cambridge, wrote a work on education entitled *The Schoolmaster*, and was celebrated for his Latin compositions.
(1515-1568),
- REV. JOHN KNOX, a Protestant preacher, wrote *A History of the Reformation*, and other theological works.
(1505-1572),
- GEORGE GASCOIGNE, a law student, translated from Ariosto the first English prose comedy, named *The Supposes*. He was also the author of *Steel Glas*, and some other satires.
(1577),

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY, wrote a romance entitled
(1554-1586), *Arcadia*, several sonnets in
elegant English, and *The
Defence of Poesy*.

REV. JOHN FOXE, an Oxford fellow, was the
(1517-1587), author of *Moralities* in Latin,
and *The Book of Martyrs*, a
manual of Protestantism.

ROBERT GREENE, a Cambridge graduate, wrote
(1553-1592), *Friar Bacon, George a Greene*,
and other plays, and some
elegies and lyrics.

CHRISTOPHER a Cambridge graduate, wrote
MARLOWE, *Tamburlaine the Great, Doctor
(1564-1593), Faustus*, and several other
sensational plays.

EDMUND SPENSER, a courtier, was the author of a
(1552-1599), celebrated allegorical poem,
entitled *The Faerie Queen, A
View of Ireland*, and a collec-
tion of miscellaneous poetry.

RICHARD HOOKER, Master of the Temple, and an eloquent preacher, is known for his work on *Ecclesiastical Polity*, defending the Church of England against the dogmatism of the Presbyterians.

JOHN STOW, a tailor, was the author of a popular *Summary of English Chronicles*, and *A Survey of London*.

JOHN LILLY, a courtier, wrote *Euphues, or the Anatomy of Wit*, and *Euphues and his England*, as well as several plays. He adopted an affected style which became fashionable and was called euphuism.

THOMAS SACKVILLE, wrote several poems, and assisted in the composition of the first English tragedy, entitled *Ferrex and Porrex*, or *Gorboduc*, founded on early British legends.

FRANCIS BEAUMONT, were the joint authors of more than fifty brilliant and romantic comedies and tragedies, passages from which are still frequently quoted.

(1586-1615),

AND

JOHN FLETCHER,

(1576-1625),

WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE,
(1564-1616),

commenced life as an actor, and wrote thirty-seven tragedies and comedies, which hold the highest place in English literature, and have obtained an imperishable fame in every civilised country. He was also the author of several sonnets and other poems.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH, wrote *A History of the World*, and some poetry.

(1552-1618),

SAMUEL DANIEL,
(1562-1619),

a courtier, composed a poem named *Musophilus*, several odes and sonnets, *A History of England*, and *A Defence of Rhyme*.

- ✓ WILLIAM CAMDEN, head-master of Westminster School, wrote a work of considerable merit in Latin, entitled *Britannia*, giving an account of the British Isles from the earliest ages.
- (1551-1623),
- THOMAS LODGE, an actor, wrote several dramas, and *Rosalinde*, a novel, upon which Shakespeare founded his play of 'As You Like it.'
- (1556-1625),
- KING JAMES I., was the author of *Basilicon Doron*, containing advice to his son and theological arguments, and *A Counterblast to Tobacco*.
- (1566-1625),
- FRANCIS BACON, Lord Chancellor to James I.,
VISCOUNT ST. ALBANS, was a moralist, an historian,
(1561-1626), and a rhetorician, and wrote a series of philosophical and other treatises of great merit, under the general title of *Instauratio Magna*.

REV. SAMUEL
PURCHAS,
(1577-1626),

compiled, from more than thirteen hundred authors, a work named *Pilgrimage, or the Relations of the World, the Religions observed in all Ages, and Places discovered from the Creation.*

HENRY BRIGGS,
(1556-1630),

a professor at Oxford, was the author of a series of Logarithmic Tables, entitled *Trigonometrica Britannica*, and some other valuable mathematical works.

MICHAEL DRAYTON,
(1563-1631),

an Oxford graduate, was the author of *Polyolbion*, a metrical guide-book to England and Wales, *The Battle of Agincourt*, and other historical poems, and *Nymphidia*, a fairy tale.

JOHN DONNE,
(1573-1631),

Dean of St. Paul's, wrote *The Pseudo-Martyr*, and several elegies, satires, and other poems.

- EDWARD FAIRFAX, son of a baronet, translated
(1575-1632), Tasso's *Jerusalem Delivered*,
and wrote a treatise on
Demonology.
- REV. GEORGE wrote *The Country Parson*,
HERBERT, and some *Sacred Poems*, which
(1593-1632), are still popular.
- SIR EDWARD COKE, Chief Justice to James I., was
(1552-1633), the author of *Reports and
Institutes*, and other valuable
legal works.
- GEORGE CHAPMAN, an Oxford graduate, wrote
(1557-1634), *Eastward Ho!* a comedy
depicting London life, and
many other plays and poems.
He also translated Homer
and Hesiod.
- RICHARD CORBET, Bishop of Norwich, was the
(1582-1635), author of some ludicrous
Satires against the Puritans.

BEN JONSON, was originally an actor ; he
 ↓ (1573-1637), became poet - laureate, and
 wrote *Every Man in His
 Humour*, and several other
 plays, masques, and lyrical
 poems, full of vigour and
 fancy, but unrefined.

REV. ROBERT BURTON, was the author of a well-known
 (1576-1639), work, entitled *The Anatomy of
 Melancholy*.

PHILIP MASSINGER, who was educated at Oxford,
 (1584-1640), wrote *The Virgin Martyr*, and
 other plays, in purer taste than
 most of his contemporaries.

FRANCIS QUARLES, a Cambridge graduate, wrote
 (1592-1644), *Emblems, Divine and Moral*,
 and several other quaint poems
 and essays.

WILLIAM DRUMMOND, an Edinburgh graduate, was
 (1585-1649), the author of *A History of the
 Five Jameses*, and numerous
 poems, sonnets, and elegies.

- JOHN SELDEN, M.P. for Oxford University,
(1584-1654), wrote *Table Talk*, *Titles of Honour*, and several works of great merit on constitutional and legal questions.
- JOSEPH HALL, Bishop of Norwich, was the
(1574-1656), author of a book of satires, entitled *A Gathering of Rods*, and several theological treatises.
- REV. THOMAS wrote *The Worthies of Eng-*
FULLER, *land*, *A Church History*, and
(1608-1661), some other quaint and scholarly works.
- REV. JAMES SHIRLEY, wrote *The Traitor*, *The Lady*
(1596-1666), *of Pleasure*, *The Cardinal*, and many other plays.
- JEREMY TAYLOR, Bishop of Down, was a fluent
(1613-1667), theological writer, the titles of his best works being *Ductor Dubitantium*, *Holy Living*, *Holy Dying*, and *The Liberty of Prophesying*.

ABRAHAM COWLEY, a Cambridge graduate, was
(1618-1667), the author of a satire entitled
The Puritan and the Papist,
several poems, and transla-
tions from Anacreon.

SIR WILLIAM poet-laureate, was the author
DAVENANT, of a tragedy named *Albovine*,
(1605-1668), several masques, and an epic
poem entitled *Gondibert*.

SIR JOHN DENHAM, produced a successful tragedy,
(1615-1668), named *The Sophy*, and
Cooper's Hill, a descriptive
poem.

WILLIAM PRYNNE, a Puritan lawyer, wrote
(1600-1669), *Histrio Mastrix*, a virulent
pamphlet against the stage,
and a number of political
treatises.

SIR GEORGE was the author of *The Comical*
ETHEREDGE, *Revenge, or Love in a Tub*,
(1636-1670), some other amusing comedies,
and some songs and poems.

JOHN MILTON,
(1608-1674),

the son of a scrivener, attained the highest rank as a poet by his *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained*. He was also the author of some other poems, and several dramatic, political, and theological works.

EDWARD HYDE,
EARL OF CLARENDON,
(1608-1674),

wrote *A History of the Rebellion*, which contains some cleverly executed descriptive portraits, and his own biography.

REV. JOHN
LIGHTFOOT,
(1602-1675),

a celebrated Hebrew scholar, compiled *A Harmony of the Four Gospels*, and other theological works.

REV. ISAAC BARROW,
(1630-1677),

was the author of *Lectiones Opticæ*, *Lectiones Geometricæ*, and other mathematical and theological treatises.

THOMAS HOBBS, Secretary to Lord Bacon, (1588-1679), wrote *The Leviathan*, and other works on *The Science of Government*, in a very republican spirit, and on philosophical questions. He also wrote his life in Latin verse when he was eighty-five years of age.

SAMUEL BUTLER, the son of a farmer, was the (1612-1680), author of *Hudibras*, a celebrated ludicrous satire against the Puritans, full of wit and learning, and other poems.

SIR THOMAS a physician, wrote *Religio*
BROWNE, *Medici*, and other works, in
(1605-1682), a rich and impressive style,
which gained him considerable reputation.

IZAAK WALTON, a hosier, is known as the
(1593-1683), author of *The Complete Angler*,
and some biographies.

THOMAS OTWAY, an actor, wrote *Venice Preserved*, and several other coarse but thrilling plays.
(1651-1685),

SIR ROBERT FILMER, a royalist, was the author of *Patriarcha*, a political essay, maintaining the divine right of kings, and that men were not born free, but slaves.
(1621-1688),

GEORGE VILLIERS, was the author of a comedy
DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM, entitled *The Rehearsal*, and
(1627-1688), some other plays.

JOHN BUNYAN, a tinker, wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress*, a religious work, which has been translated into a greater number of languages than any other book, except the Bible.
(1628-1688),

RICHARD BAXTER, a Puritan preacher, wrote *The Saints' Everlasting Rest*, and many other theological treatises.
(1615-1691),

SIR WILLIAM
TEMPLE,
(1628-1698),

a diplomatist, wrote a controversial essay on *The Comparative Merits of Ancient and Modern Authors*.

JOHN DRYDEN,
(1631-1700),

poet-laureate to Charles II., was the author of numerous plays, several controversial and satirical poems, including *Absalom and Achithophel*, and many other works in verse and prose. He also made translations from *Virgil*, and some of the other Greek and Latin poets. One of his best works is *An Ode to St. Cecilia's Day*.

SAMUEL PEPYS,
(1632-1703),

Secretary to the Admiralty, kept *A Diary*, which affords amusing information as to the manners and customs of the age in which he lived.

JOHN LOCKE,
(1632-1704),

a country gentleman, wrote *Letters on Toleration*, *An*

JOHN LOCKE, (1632-1704),—
continued. *Essay concerning Human Understanding*, and several treatises on civil government, education, and other subjects.

JOHN EVELYN, (1620-1706), a member of the Royal Society, was the author of *Sylva*, a discourse on forest trees, several works on the *Fine Arts*, and a *Diary* containing curious glimpses of society in the seventeenth century.

GEORGE FARQUHAR, (1678-1707), educated at Trinity College, Dublin, became an actor, and wrote *The Beaux Stratagem*, and other plays.

CHARLES MONTAGUE, EARL OF HALIFAX, (1661-1715), composed, jointly with Matthew Prior, a burlesque, entitled *The Country Mouse and the City Mouse*, and other poems.

GILBERT BURNET, Bishop of Salisbury, was the author of *A History of His own Time*, and other works.
(1643-1715),

REV. THOMAS PARNELL, was a contributor to periodicals, and author of a poem named *The Hermit*.
(1679-1717),

SIR SAMUEL GARTH, a physician, wrote a mock-heroic poem, entitled *The Dispensary*, and assisted in a translation of *Ovid*.
(1672-1718),

NICHOLAS ROWE, poet-laureate to George I., was the author of *Jane Shore* and other plays, a translation of *Lucan*, and a collection of poems.
(1673-1718),

JOSEPH ADDISON, Secretary of State, was an eminent essayist and the principal contributor to *The Spectator*; he was also a dramatist and poet.
(1672-1719),

- MATTHEW PRIOR, a diplomatist, wrote *Henry and Emma*, and other poems, several *Tales*, and some *Epigrams*.
(1664-1721),
- REV. JOSEPH BINGHAM, was the author of an interesting work entitled *Antiquities of the Christian Church*.
(1681-1723),
- REV. JEREMY COLLIER, wrote an essay on the *Immortality and Profaneness of the Stage*, *An Ecclesiastical History*, and political pamphlets.
(1650-1726),
- SIR ISAAC NEWTON, immortalised himself as the first demonstrator of *The Laws of Gravitation*, and wrote numerous scientific and philosophical treatises.
v (1642-1727),
- WILLIAM CONGREVE, a law student, was the author of *The Mourning Bride*, *The Way of the World*, and several other very successful plays.
(1670-1729),

SIR RICHARD BLACKMORE, (1650-1729), a physician, wrote a poem entitled *Prince Arthur*, and many others on various themes.

SIR RICHARD STEELE, (1671-1729), contributed to three periodicals, *The Tatler*, *The Spectator*, and *The Guardian*, and was the author of several comedies and political essays.

DANIEL DEFOE, (1661-1731), a merchant, was one of the first English novelists, and his *Robinson Crusoe* is still popular. He was also a poet and political writer.

JOHN GAY, (1688-1732), a courtier, was the author of *The Beggar's Opera*, and wrote several comedies and farces, and some poems.

JOHN ARBUTHNOT, (1675-1735), a physician, wrote a humorous *History of John Bull*, and was joint author with Pope and Swift of a satirical essay entitled *Martinus Scriblerus*.

- THOMAS TICKELL, an Oxford fellow, is celebrated as a translator of Homer, a contributor to *The Spectator*, and for an elegy *On the Death of Addison*.
(1666-1740),
- RICHARD BENTLEY, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, was an eminent scholar, and a critical editor of several of the *Ancient Classics*.
(1662-1742),
- REV. DANIEL NEAL, a dissenting minister, wrote a reliable *History of the Puritans*.
(1678-1743),
- ALEXANDER POPE, the son of a linen draper, was the author of *The Dunciad*, *An Essay on Man*, and many other satirical and miscellaneous poems ; he also translated *Homer*.
(1668-1744),
- JONATHAN SWIFT, Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin, was the author of numerous compositions in verse and prose, in almost every style
(1667-1745),

JONATHAN SWIFT, of literature. One of his best
(1667-1745)— known works is *Gulliver's*
continued. *Travels.*

REV. ISAAC WATTS, a dissenting minister, was the
(1674-1748), author of *The Busy Bee*, *The*
Sluggard, and many other
hymns for children. He also
wrote some theological and
philosophical essays, and *A*
Manual of Logic.

JAMES THOMSON, son of a Presbyterian minister,
(1700-1748), wrote a series of poems called
The Seasons, and several
tragedies.

HENRY ST. JOHN, contributed political essays to
VISCOUNT a periodical, entitled *The*
BOLINGBROKE, *Craftsman*, and wrote several
(1678-1751), metaphysical treatises.

JOSEPH BUTLER, Bishop of Durham, was the
(1692-1752), author of *The Analogy of*
Religion, and many other

JOSEPH BUTLER, very able theological works ;
(1692-1752),— his *Sermons on Moral Philo-*
continued. *sophy* also hold a high place
in Church literature.

GEORGE BERKELEY, Bishop of Cloyne, wrote *A*
(1684-1753) *Treatise on the Principles of*
Human Knowledge, a theo-
logical dialogue entitled *Al-*
ciphron, and several very
able political and meta-
physical works.

HENRY FIELDING, educated for the law, was the
(1707-1754), author of *Tom Jones*, *Joseph*
Andrews, and other novels of
great merit ; he also wrote
plays and political pamphlets.

WILLIAM COLLINS, the son of a hatter, was the
(1721-1756), author of *An Ode to the*
Passions, and some other
poems.

COLLEY CIBBER, an actor and poet-laureate, (1671-1757), wrote *The Careless Husband* and several other plays, and *An Apology for his Life*.

ALLAN RAMSAY, a bookseller, wrote *The Vision*, (1686-1758), *The Gentle Shepherd*, and several collections of miscellaneous poems.

REV. JOHN DYER, was the author of *Grougar Hill*, and other descriptive poems. (1700-1758)

SAMUEL RICHARDSON, a printer, was the author of three celebrated novels, entitled *Pamela*, *Clarissa Harlowe*, and *Sir Charles Grandison*. (1689-1761)

LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU, wrote several poems, and described her *Travels in the East* in a series of letters which are still read with pleasure. (1689-1762)

- WILLIAM SHENSTONE, an Oxford student, wrote *The Schoolmistress*, and several odes and elegies.
(1714-1763),
- REV. EDWARD YOUNG, was the author of *Night Thoughts*, several satires, and three tragedies.
(1681-1765),
- REV. CHARLES CHURCHILL, was the author of *The Rosciad*, a satire on the stage, and various other poems.
(1731-1765),
- REV. LAURENCE STERNE, wrote two humorous narratives, entitled *Tristram Shandy* and *A Sentimental Journey*, and some satires.
(1713-1768),
- JAMES MERRICK, fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, was the author of *The Chameleon*, and several theological works.
(1720-1769),
- WILLIAM FALCONER, a naval officer, was the author of *The Shipwreck*, a vivid descriptive poem.
(1732-1769),

- MARK AKENSIDE, a physician, wrote *The Pleasures of Imagination*, a poem of much merit.
(1721-1770),
- THOMAS CHATTERTON, the son of a sexton, composed imaginary *Legendary Histories*, and miscellaneous poems, unequalled by any writer of his age.
(1752-1770),
- THOMAS GRAY, a professor at Cambridge, was the author of the famous *Elegy in a Country Churchyard*, and several odes.
(1716-1771),
- TOBIAS SMOLLETT, a naval surgeon, wrote *Roderick Random*, *Peregrine Pickle*, *Humphrey Clinker*, and some other satirical novels.
(1721-1771),
- PHILIP STANHOPE, wrote a series of *Letters to His*
EARL OF CHESTERFIELD, *Son*, full of practical sense and useful information.
(1694-1773),

OLIVER GOLDSMITH, a medical student, was the author of *The Vicar of Wakefield*, several poems, a play entitled *She Stoops to Conquer*, and some historical works.

DAVID HUME, Under-Secretary of State, compiled *A History of England*, and wrote several political and metaphysical treatises.

JOHN ARMSTRONG, a physician, was the author of *The Art of Preserving Health*, one of the finest didactic poems ever written.

SAMUEL JOHNSON, the son of a bookseller, compiled a *Dictionary*, and wrote *The Lives of the Poets*, a tragedy, a novel, and essays on various subjects.

SIR WILLIAM BLACKSTONE, an eminent judge, was the author of a well-known work, entitled *Commentaries on the Laws of England*.

- ADAM SMITH, a professor at Glasgow University, was the author of *The Wealth of Nations*, a treatise on political economy.
(1723-1790),
- THOMAS WARTON, poet-laureate, wrote *A History of English Poetry*, and several other works.
(1728-1790),
- REV. JOHN WESLEY, was the author of a *Journal*, a translation of *The Works of Thomas à Kempis*, a German divine, several hymns, and some theological treatises.
(1703-1791),
- SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS, a painter, wrote *Discourses on Painting*, and *Remarks on Pictures of the Dutch and Flemish Schools*.
(1723-1792),
- REV. GILBERT WHITE, a celebrated naturalist, was the author of *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*.
(1720-1793),

EDWARD GIBBON, the son of a country gentleman, devoted many years to a history of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, which has been translated into almost every European language, and an autobiography.

JAMES BOSWELL, a Scotch advocate, was a companion of Dr. Johnson, whose biography he wrote.

JAMES MACPHERSON, a Scotch schoolmaster, translated several of the ancient Gaelic poems of *Ossian*.

ROBERT BURNS, a Scotch farmer, was the author of *The Cottar's Saturday Night*, *John Anderson my Jo*, *Auld Lang Syne*, and many other sentimental and patriotic songs, as popular now as when they were written.

HORACE WALPOLE, M.P., was the author of a novel entitled *The Castle of Otranto, Anecdotes of Painters*, and several other works; he was also celebrated as a letter-writer.

EDMUND BURKE, M.P. for Wendover, wrote *Essays* on various social and political subjects; but his fame rests upon his eloquent speeches in Parliament.

WILLIAM COWPER, a barrister, was the author of *The Task*, several other poems and moral satires, and the humorous *History of John Gilpin*.

JAMES BEATTIE, a professor at Aberdeen, wrote *Essays on Moral Science*, a poem entitled *The Minstrel*, and several other works.

REV. WILLIAM PALEY, was the author of *The Elements of Moral and Political Philosophy*, *The Evidences of Christianity*, and other theological works; he was also a translator of the Classics.

HENRY KIRKE WHITE, of humble origin, wrote *Miscellaneous Poems* of considerable merit.

REV. JOHN HOME, a Scotch minister, was the author of a clever tragedy named *Douglas*, for writing which he had to retire from his kirk.

RICHARD PORSON, a professor at Cambridge, was an eminent Greek scholar and critic, and edited four plays of *Euripides*.

CHARLES DIBDIN, a musician, wrote *Poor Jack*, and many other favourite ballads and sea songs.

RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN,
(1751-1817), an Under-Secretary of State, wrote three celebrated plays, entitled *The Rivals*, *The School for Scandal*, and *The Critic*; and made some brilliant speeches in Parliament.

JANE AUSTEN,
(1775-1817), a clergyman's daughter, was the authoress of *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and several other popular domestic novels.

SIR PHILIP FRANCIS,
(1740-1818), was the reputed author of a series of pungent political letters signed *Junius*.

JOHN KEATS,
(1795-1821), educated for the medical profession, wrote *Endymion*, *An Ode to a Nightingale*, *Hyperion*, and many other elegant poems.

PERCY BYSSHE
SHELLEY,
(1792-1822),
eldest son of a baronet, was a gifted writer with extreme revolutionary ideas. His best poetical works are *Prometheus Unbound*, and *The Cenci*; he was also the author of several romances, and translations from the Greek Classics.

THOMAS ERSKINE,
(1750-1823),
Lord Chancellor to George III., was the author of several political pamphlets.

ANN RADCLIFFE,
(1764-1823),
wife of a journalist, wrote *The Romance of the Forest*, *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, and several other thrilling novels.

MRS. BARBAULD,
(1743-1824),
was a well-known writer of *Poems and Hymns for Children*.

LORD BYRON,
(1788-1824),
was a poet of extraordinary genius, power, and versatility; two of his most popular works being *Childe Harold* and *Don Juan*.

- WILLIAM GIFFORD, of humble origin, became editor of *The Quarterly Review*, and wrote successful satires against the Italian style of poetry and the modern drama.
(1756-1826),
- REGINALD HEBER, Bishop of Calcutta, was the author of a favourite collection of *Hymns* and *Sacred Poems*.
(1783-1826),
- WILLIAM MITFORD, M.P., devoted many years to a *History of Greece*.
(1744-1827),
- GEORGE CANNING, Prime Minister, contributed in his earlier days to the *Anti-Jacobin*, a satirical periodical.
(1770-1827),
- REV. DR. LANIGAN, was the author of a calm and learned *Ecclesiastical History of Ireland*.
(1760-1828),
- SIR HUMPHREY DAVY, President of the Royal Society, wrote numerous treatises on *Physical Science and Chemical Philosophy*.
(1778-1829),

WILLIAM HAZLITT, son of a Unitarian minister, (1778-1830), was an eminent critic and essayist, and the author of *Sketches of English Picture Galleries*, and various other works.

THOMAS HOPE, an architect, was the author of (1770-1831), a novel entitled *Anastatius or The Memoirs of a Modern Greek*, and essays on *Architecture* and *Household Furniture*.

REV. GEORGE CRABBE, wrote *The Library, Tales of the Hall*, and other narrative (1754-1832), poems.

SIR WALTER SCOTT, was the prince of novelists, and (1771-1832), the author of numerous romantic poems and ballads; he also contributed to the *Edinburgh* and *Quarterly Reviews*.

- JEREMY BENTHAM, a barrister, wrote *The Principles of Morals and Legislation*, and other utilitarian treatises.
(1748-1832),
- HANNAH MORE, was a writer of *Sacred Dramas* and other popular works.
(1745-1833),
- SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE, the son of a clergyman, became a poet, a critic, and a metaphysician ; his best works being *The Ancient Mariner*, *Christabel*, and *Aids to Reflection*.
(1772-1834),
- CHARLES LAMB, a clerk in the India Office, was the author of *Essays of Elia*, a clever series of humorous sketches, and *Tales from Shakespeare*.
(1775-1834),
- WILLIAM COBBETT, a self-educated farmer, was the editor of *The Weekly Register*, a domestic journal, and the author of some educational and political publications.
(1762-1835),

- JAMES HOGG, known as the Ettrick Shepherd, (1772-1835), was the author of several collections of songs and ballads, of which the finest are *The Queen's Wake* and *The Skylark*.
- MRS. HEMANS, wrote *Songs of the Affections*, (1793-1835), *Lays of Many Lands*, and various miscellaneous poems.
- JAMES MILL, was educated for the Scotch (1773-1836), Kirk, but preferred literature. He wrote a *History of British India*, and several works on political economy and philosophical subjects.
- L. E. LANDON, contributed poetry to several (MRS. M'LEAN), periodicals. She also wrote (1802-1839), *The Fate of Adelaide* a Swiss tale, and three novels.

ROBERT SOUTHEY, poet-laureate, was the author of *Thalaba*, *The Curse of Kehama*, and other poems, *The Doctor*, numerous translations from Spanish and Portuguese writers, and several biographies; he also contributed to the *Quarterly Review*.

THOMAS CAMPBELL, son of a merchant, established his fame as a poet by his *Pleasures of Hope*, and wrote several other poems of considerable merit.

REV. RICHARD BARHAM, was the author of *The Ingoldsby Legends*, a series of humorous tales in verse.

THOMAS HOOD, son of a bookseller, wrote *The Bridge of Sighs*, *Eugene Aram*, *The Song of a Shirt*, and many other pathetic and humorous poems; he also edited a *Comic Annual*, and contributed to several magazines.

- CAPTAIN MARRYAT, R.N., wrote *Midshipman Easy*,
(1797-1849), *Peter Simple*, *Jacob Faithful*,
and many other naval novels.
- WILLIAM
WORDSWORTH, poet-laureate, was the author of
(1770-1850), *The Excursion*, and numerous
other poems of great beauty.
- LORD JEFFREY, a Scotch judge, was the first
(1773-1850), editor of the *Edinburgh Re-
view*, and wrote several clever
critical essays.
- JOANNA BAILLIE, the daughter of a Presby-
(1762-1851), terian minister, wrote a series
of *Plays on the Passions*, and
some miscellaneous poetry.
- DR. JOHN LINGARD, of humble origin, wrote a
(1771-1851), lucid and impartial *History
of England*, and some theo-
logical treatises.
- THOMAS MOORE, educated for the law, was the
(1779-1852), author of *Irish Melodies*, *Lalla
Rookh*, and many other works.

AMELIA OPIE, wrote *Tales of Real Life*, and
(1769-1853), some poems.

JAMES MONTGOMERY, of humble origin, wrote *The
(1771-1854), Wanderer in Switzerland*, and
other descriptive and mis-
cellaneous poetry.

JOHN WILSON, a Scotch advocate, contributed
(CHRISTOPHER NORTH), *Noctes Ambrosianæ* to *Black-
(1785-1854), wood's Magazine*, and wrote
several tales and essays.

SAMUEL ROGERS, a banker, wrote *The Pleasures
(1763-1855), of Memory*, and other poems.

CHARLOTTE BRONTE, a clergyman's daughter, wrote
(CURRER BELL), *Jane Eyre*, a work of great
(1816-1855), genius, and several other
novels.

SIR WILLIAM a celebrated Scotch meta-
HAMILTON, physician, contributed to the
(1791-1856), *Edinburgh Review*, and wrote
treatises on logic and mental
philosophy.

DOUGLAS JERROLD, the son of a theatrical manager, (1803-1857), was the author of *Black-eyed Susan* and other plays, *Mrs. Caudle's Lectures*, and numerous other sparkling and satirical compositions. He was also a journalist.

HENRY HALLAM, an Oxford graduate, was the author of a *Constitutional History of England*, and an *Introduction to the Literature of Europe*, both of which evince great industry, acuteness, and impartiality.

LORD MACAULAY, wrote *The Lays of Ancient Rome*, a *History of England*, and numerous other poems and essays. He also contributed to several periodicals, and for brilliancy of style, and elegant diction, holds the highest rank among English writers.

J. H. LEIGH HUNT, the son of a solicitor, was a poet and essayist, the editor of the *London Journal*, and the author of various works in prose and verse.

THOMAS DE QUINCEY, the son of a merchant, was the author of *Confessions of an Opium Eater*, and an impassioned and critical writer in several periodicals.

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM NAPIER, wrote a *History of the Peninsular War*, and other works on India.

G. P. R. JAMES, was the author of *Richelieu*, *De Lorne*, and many other historical romances.

LORD CAMPBELL, Lord Chancellor, was the author of a series of *The Lives of the Lord Chancellors*, and another of *The Chief Justices of England*.

MRS. BROWNING, was the highly-educated and talented authoress of *Seraphim*, *Aurora Leigh*, and several other poems.

SIR FRANCIS PALGRAVE, wrote *The Merchant and the Friar*, and other works, evincing antiquarian and medieval knowledge and research.

J. SHERIDAN KNOWLES, an actor, produced *The Hunchback*, *Love Chase*, and some other plays.

WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY, the son of an Indian civil servant, contributed to *Punch* and several magazines, and earned great reputation as the author of *Vanity Fair*, *Pendennis*, and several other novels, and as a lecturer on *English Humourists*, and *The Four Georges*.

MRS. TROLLOPE, was the authoress of *Travels*
 (1779-1863), *in America*, and numerous
 novels.

RICHARD WHATELY, Archbishop of Dublin, wrote
 (1787-1863), several valuable works on
Logic and *Rhetoric*.

SIR GEORGE a statesman, was the author
 CORNEWALL LEWIS, of numerous essays on science,
 (1806-1863), history, and philosophy. He
 also conducted the *Edinburgh*
Review.

WALTER SAVAGE having squandered his estate,
 LANDOR, became an author, and wrote
 (1775-1864), *Imaginary Conversations*,
 which are full of scholarship
 and humour, as well as poems
 and essays.

CHARLES WENT- a civil servant, became a well-
 WORTH DILKE, known critic and journalist,
 (1789-1864), and wrote essays on literary
 history.

REV. JOHN KEBLE, was the author of *The Christian Year*, and several theological works.
(1792-1865),

MRS. GASKELL, the wife of a Unitarian minister, wrote *Mary Barton*, and other novels depicting artisan life.
(1822-1865),

WILLIAM AVTOUN, a graduate of Edinburgh, was the author of *The Execution of Montrose, Lays of the Scottish Cavaliers*, and several humorous ballads. He also contributed to *Blackwood's Magazine*.
(1813-1865),

REV. WILLIAM WHEWELL, was an eminent writer on mathematics, science, philosophy, and other subjects.
(1794-1867),

MICHAEL FARADAY, of humble origin, attained great eminence as a lecturer and writer on *Chemistry* and *Electricity*.
(1791-1867),

SIR ARCHIBALD ALISON,
(1792-1867), devoted many years to the compilation of *A History of Europe*, which has a world-wide popularity.

HENRY BROUGHAM, Lord Chancellor, achieved a great reputation as an orator, and was a contributor to the *Edinburgh Review*, and the author of several works on theology, science, and metaphysics.

SIR DAVID BREWSTER, devoted his life to science, and wrote numerous treatises on *Light* and *Optics*.

HENRY HART MILMAN,
(1791-1868), Dean of St. Paul's, was the author of *Fazio*, a tragedy, *The Fall of Jerusalem*, *A History of Latin Christianity*, and many other historical and theological works.

SAMUEL LOVER, originally a miniature painter, was a celebrated Irish novelist and song writer. *Handy Andy*, *Rory O'More*, and *Molly Bawn*, are some of his best compositions.

WILLIAM CARLETON, of humble origin, wrote *Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry*, and other humorous and pathetic tales.

CHARLES DICKENS, the son of a civil servant, was the author of *The Pickwick Papers*, a series of popular novels, and several *Christmas Stories*, chiefly delineating the life of the masses. He was also the editor of a periodical entitled *Household Words*.

SIR JOHN HERSCHEL, wrote many treatises on *Astronomy*, and other scientific subjects.

- SIR RODERICK MURCHISON, (1792-1871), was President of the Geographical Society, and the author of several works on *Geology*.
- GEORGE GROTE, (1794-1871), a banker, wrote a most valuable *History of Greece*, and a number of political pamphlets.
- AUGUSTUS DE MORGAN, (1806-1871), a Cambridge wrangler, was the author of a *Treatise on the Differential and Integral Calculus*, and many other mathematical works. He also published an amusing *Budget of Paradoxes*.
- HENRY ALFORD, (1810-1871), Dean of Canterbury, wrote *The School of the Heart*, and other poems, and was an eminent Greek scholar.
- REV. FREDERICK DENISON MAURICE, (1806-1872), the son of a Unitarian minister, was the author of *Mental and Moral Philosophy*,

- REV. FREDERICK DENISON MAURICE, (1806-1872)—
continued. and several theological treatises inculcating Broad Church doctrines.
- CHARLES JAMES LEVER, (1806-1872), a physician, wrote *Harry Lorrequer*, *Charles O'Malley*, *Jack Hinton*, and many other brilliantly humorous Irish novels.
- MRS. SOMERVILLE, (1780-1873), was the authoress of *The Connexion of the Physical Sciences*, *Physical Geography*, and other popular scientific works.
- CHARLES KNIGHT, (1791-1873), the son of a bookseller, was a Shakespearian commentator, and the publisher of *The Penny Cyclopædia*, and a variety of cheap and instructive literature.
- JOHN STUART MILL, M.P., (1806-1873), was the author of numerous works on *Political Economy*, with a strong democratic and agnostic bias.

LORD LYTON,
(1806-1873), was a richly gifted and versatile writer of plays, romances, and novels. *The Lady of Lyons* and *Money* are his best dramas, and *The Last Days of Pompeii*, *Rienzi*, and *The Pilgrims of the Rhine*, his most popular fictions.

CHARLES SHIRLEY
BROOKS,
(1816-1874), the son of an architect, was a journalist and play-writer, but is best known as a contributor to *Punch*.

BRYAN WALLER
PROCTER,
(BARRY CORNWALL),
(1787-1874), educated for the law, wrote a number of miscellaneous poems, and several biographies.

CONNOP THIRLWALL, Bishop of St. David's, was an able literary and theological writer, and an advocate for religious toleration.

SIR CHARLES LYELL, was the author of several
(1797-1875), valuable works on *Geology*.

LORD MAHON, wrote *A History of England*,
(EARL STANHOPE), *A Life of Belisarius*, and
(1805-1875), several essays and biographies.

HON. MRS. NORTON, was a sentimental ballad
(LADY STIRLING writer, and the authoress of
MAXWELL), *Stuart of Dunleath*, *Lost and*
(1808-1875), *Saved*, and other novels.

REV. CHARLES wrote several poems, and was
KINGSLEY, the author of *Alton Locke*,
(1819-1875), *Yeast*, and other novels,
evincing strong sympathy
with the working classes.

JOHN FORSTER, a barrister, was an eminent
(1812-1876), journalist, and the biographer
of Goldsmith, Dickens, Swift,
and other men of note.

HARRIET
MARTINEAU,
(1802-1876),

descended from a Huguenot family, was the authoress of *Illustrations of Political Economy*, some *Historical Works* and *Travels*, and biographical notices.

SAMUEL WARREN,
(1807-1877),

a barrister, wrote *The Diary of a Late Physician*, *Ten Thousand a Year*, and some other sensational novels.

WILLIAM HEPWORTH
DIXON,
(1821-1879),

a barrister, was the author of *New America*, *Free Russia*, *The Switzers*, and other historical and biographical works.

TOM TAYLOR,
(1817-1880),

a civil servant, wrote *The Ticket of Leave Man*, *Masks and Faces*, *'Twixt Axe and Crozen*, and upwards of a hundred other plays.

GEORGE ELIOT, was the authoress of *Scenes of*
(MARY ANN EVANS). *Clerical Life*, several poems
(1820-1880), and essays, *Adam Bede*, *Silas*
Marner, *Middlemarch*, *Daniel*
Deronda, and other novels,
all evincing rare genius and
knowledge of human nature.

THOMAS CARLYLE, the son of a Scotch mason,
(1795-1881), was a stern censor of the age
he lived in, a contributor to
several magazines, and the
author of *Sartor Resartus*, *A*
History of Frederick the Great,
and many other historical and
philosophical works.

BENJAMIN D'ISRAELI, commenced his success as a
EARL OF political novelist with *Vivian*
BEACONSFIELD, *Grey*, and crowned it with
(1804-1881), *Endymion*.

JOHN HILL BURTON, a barrister, wrote *A History*
(1809-1881), *of Scotland*, and on political
economy.

- ARTHUR PENRHYN STANLEY,
(1815-1881), Dean of Westminster, was the author of *Travels in Palestine*, the *Life of Dr. Arnold*, and other works.
- REV. EDWARD B. PUSEY,
(1800-1882), an Oxford professor, was a contributor to *Tracts for the Times*, and the author of numerous works advocating High Church doctrines.
- WILLIAM HARRISON AINSWORTH,
(1805-1882), a journalist, wrote *Jack Shepherd*, *The Tower of London*, and some other popular but pernicious novels.
- CHARLES DARWIN,
(1809-1882), a graduate of Cambridge, became famous as a naturalist and physiologist, and was the author of *The Origin of the Species*, *The Descent of Man*, and several scientific works.

ANTHONY TROLLOPE, a civil servant, will be remembered as the author of *Dr. Thorne*, *Framley Parsonage*, *Barchester Towers*, and many other amusing novels, and books of travel, and of his own biography.

ROBERT AND WILLIAM CHAMBERS, (1802-1871), (1800-1883), the sons of a Scotch weaver, were the eminent publishers of the *Edinburgh Journal*, *A History of English Literature*, and many educational works of great merit.

REV. GEORGE POOLE, (1810-1883), was the author of *A History of Ecclesiastical Architecture in England*, and other works.

JOHN WILLIAM COLENZO, (1814-1883), Bishop of Natal, was the author of some useful *Mathematical* works, and of *Commentaries on The Pentateuch*

JOHN WILLIAM COLENSO,
(1814-1883)—
continued. *and Book of Joshua*, of great ability but questionable orthodoxy.

WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
(1825-1883), an Oxford scholar, and printer to the Queen, wrote a treatise on the *Polarisation of Light*, and various works on philosophy, astronomy, popular education, and other subjects.

JOHN PAYNE COLLIER,
(1789-1883), a barrister, was a Shakespearian critic, and the author of *The Poetical Decameron*, *The Poet's Pilgrimage*, and *A Bibliographical Catalogue*.

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW,
(1807-1882), No record of writers in the English language would be complete which did not include the author of *Hyperion*, *Kavanaugh*, *The Song of Hi-*

- HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW,
(1807-1882)—
continued. *Watha*, and many other works which are as popular with English readers as with his own countrymen in America, and breathe a spirit of love and purity unsurpassed in the literature of any other nation, either ancient or modern.
- DINAH MARIA MULOCK,
(1827-1887), authoress of *John Halifax, Gentleman*, and several other clever novels.
- MRS. HENRY WOOD, (1821-1887), authoress of *East Lynne*, and numerous other sensational novels, which have attained an aggregate sale of half-a-million copies.
- MATTHEW ARNOLD, (1822-1888), professor of poetry at Oxford, and a writer on religious, social, and educational subjects.

WILKIE COLLINS, a celebrated novelist ; author of *After Dark, A Woman in White, No Name*, and many other works.

ELIZA COOK, authoress of *The Old Arm Chair*, and numerous other poems and prose works in various periodicals.

ROBERT BROWNING, a prolific writer of poetry, and the author of several plays.

DION BOUCICAULT, a dramatist and actor ; author of *London Assurance, Colleen Bawn, Arrah na Pogue*, and several other plays.

LORD TENNYSON, the most distinguished of modern British poets ; was appointed Poet Laureate in 1850. *The Princess* and *In Memoriam* are two of his best known works.

- WALT WHITMAN, an American, celebrated for
(1819-1892), his unconventional poems, the
best being *Leaves of Grass*,
and *Democratic Vistas*.
- JAMES ANTHONY professor of modern history
FROUDE, at Oxford; author of numerous
(1818-1894), works including a wide range
of literature.
- EDMUND YATES, an able critic, journalist, and
(1831-1894), novel writer, and the founder
of *The World* newspaper.
- GEORGE DU MAURIER, a celebrated contributor to
(1834-1896), *Punch*, and a book illustrator.
- HARRIET BEECHER the famous American author-
STOWE, ess of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*,
(1812-1896), and other works.
- MRS. MARGARET a writer of novels and histories,
OLIPHANT, equally remarkable for their
(1828-1897), high standard, and the amount
of work which she succeeded
in accomplishing.
-

THE BIRD'S COMMENTS.

THE TRAVELLER who gazes, from an eminence, on the bird's-eye view which it affords of a newly-visited city or locality, is glad to have his attention directed to the principal objects of interest in the somewhat confusing expanse around him ; and readers of the foregoing Synopsis will probably be better able to retain its impression on their mental vision with the aid of a few general observations upon some of the chief points, concerning which it is intended to create a desire for further information.

The gift of language enabled mankind, from the earliest ages, to communicate their thoughts and ideas to each other ; and, long before the invention of writing, songs were composed by the bards or priests in every civilised country, to be recited at their religious ceremonies, or to kindle courage in battle. These were orally handed down from generation to generation, and formed the main source of all subsequent historical records and other literature.

It must also be remembered, in connection with the rise and progress of English learning, that, for centuries prior to the Christian era, intellectual culture had attained its highest development in ancient Greece and Rome, and that from the writings of the celebrated authors of those days,—whose works were almost miraculously preserved during the dark ages which followed the downfall of the Roman Empire,—all that is most valuable in our secular knowledge and literature, except a fuller acquaintance with the laws of nature, has been derived.

The Angles are supposed to have brought with them to Britain, in the fifth century, a composition in praise of the deeds of their ancestors, called “The Gleeman’s Song,” which, with two others, entitled “The Battle of Finsburgh” and “The Tale of Beowulf,” were afterwards committed to writing, and constitute the only specimens of their language and poetry.

Caedmon was a native of Britain, and therefore

heads the roll of Anglo - Saxon writers. Bede, and several of his successors, wrote in Latin, because that language was adopted by the monks as better suited than the rude vernacular for literary purposes. King Alfred, however, endeavoured to instruct his people by means of translations: but his example does not seem to have been followed, the writers during the next two centuries having chiefly devoted themselves to historical annals and controversial theology. The earliest dawn of romance was the engrafting into their works, by Mapes and others, in the twelfth century, of the Welsh legends relating to King Arthur. The first work on English law appeared soon afterwards, and Roger Bacon's treatises on science and general knowledge a century later. Satire and criticism followed next, and the Anglo-Saxon language, which was gradually changing into Norman-English, began to be used more generally than Latin.

During the fourteenth century vice and misery were depicted in allegorical poetry, and the spirit of inquiry was stimulated by travels and philosophical disquisi-

tions. Wycliffe's translation of the Bible helped, at the same time, to enforce the doctrines of the religious reformers, and Chaucer's poetry awakened an interest in human character and daily life.

The wars of the Roses caused a decadence of literature during the fifteenth century; but a revival ensued, and translations from the ancient classics, as well as sonnets and love songs imitated from Italian poetry, considerably expanded the range of thought, and imparted a more elegant tone to the language. Miracle plays representing scriptural events, which had been originated soon after the introduction of Christianity, were superseded by comedies and tragedies, and romances in verse and prose became popular.

In the sixteenth century the diffusion of knowledge by means of the printing-press, the discovery of new countries, and the spread of the Reformation, all tended to kindle imagination, and to enlarge the intellectual ideas of the nation generally. The Eliza-

bethan dramas, culminating with those of Shakespeare, have never been excelled in their grandeur and variety, their perfect delineations of human nature, their wealth of incident, or their exuberance of wit. The poetry of the period also, whether descriptive, satirical, or humorous, bore the impress of developed power and refinement ; while the prose compositions, in almost every branch of learning, attained a depth of tone, and a classic grace of style, which have served as models to many subsequent writers. Lord Bacon rivalled his earlier namesake in his philosophical and scientific attainments, and Spenser's pastoral and allegorical poems were succeeded by those of Milton.

The civil war in the seventeenth century again almost silenced the voice of literature, with the exception of political treatises, and Puritanical rule suppressed the drama. In the reaction that followed the Restoration, a new style, borrowed from the French, which was characterised by degrading coarseness and scoffing ridicule, prevailed for a time.

During the first half of the eighteenth century, which is known as the English "Augustan" age, the poetical compositions, although perfect in metre, were deficient in passion and grace. The style of the chief prose writers, however, was simple and vigorous. In the next generation several of the noblest specimens of English writing were produced, and the poetry became more fervid and natural. Works of fiction took the place of tragedies and comedies, while history, science, and philosophy were more generally studied and popularised. The newspaper press and periodical criticism became, from this time, powerful influences in guiding public opinion, and satire the keenest weapon for assailing the vices both of the rich and poor.

The stirring incidents of the first French Revolution gave birth to an entirely new development of mental activity, which is still perceptible in the greater freedom of thought, and in the widened scope of the literature of the nineteenth century. More practical than that of any preceding age, it at the same time

indicates an intellectual energy, and (excepting the effusions of sensational novelists) a moral pureness, which should earn for the writers of the Victorian era, including many who are still living, an enduring fame in the estimation of posterity.





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