

**THE FORM OF PERFECT
LIVING AND OTHER
PROSE TREATISES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649204014

The form of perfect living and other prose treatises by Richard Rolle

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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RICHARD ROLLE

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PROSE TREATISES**

The Form of Perfect Living
and
other Prose Treatises.



The Form of Perfect Living
and
other Prose Treatises.

BY
RICHARD ROLLE,
OF HAMPOLE,
A.D. 1300-1349.

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LONDON:
THOMAS BAKER, 72, NEWMAN STREET, W.
—
1910.



PRINTED BY W. C. HEMMONS,
ST. STEPHEN STREET,
BRISTOL.

MAR 17 1956

“ Love is a life, joining together the loving
and the loved.”

“ Truth may be without love, but it cannot
help without it.”

RICHARD ROLLE

(The Form of Perfect Living, ch. x.)



Preface.

THIS book is not intended for those who
are acquainted with Anglo-Saxon and
Middle English ; but for those who care for
the thought, specially the religious and
devotional thought, of our forefathers. My
one aim has been to make a portion of that
thought accurately intelligible to modern
readers, with the greatest possible saving of
trouble to them. When I could use the old
word or phrase, with certainty of its being
understood, I have done so. When I could
not, I have replaced it with the best modern
equivalent I could find or invent. In ex-
tenuation of the occasional use of Rolle's

expression, "by their lone," I may urge its expressiveness, the absence of an equivalent, and the fact that it may still be heard in remote places. Where possible, I have retained the archaic order of the original Text.

Such irregular constructions, as *e.g.*, the use of a singular pronoun in the first half of a sentence, and of a plural in the second half, I have left unaltered; for the meaning was perfectly clear. In short, I have endeavoured to make Richard Rolle as he was as significant as possible to English men and women of to-day as they are, when they are not professed students of English language. In such an undertaking, it is obvious that I must have presented endless vulnerable places to the learned. I can only repeat that the book was never meant for them, but for those who will perhaps forgive me if I describe them