

**APPRECIATIONS:
WITH AN
ESSAY ON STYLE**

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Appreciations: with an essay on style by Walter Pater

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WITH AN ESSAY ON STYLE

BY

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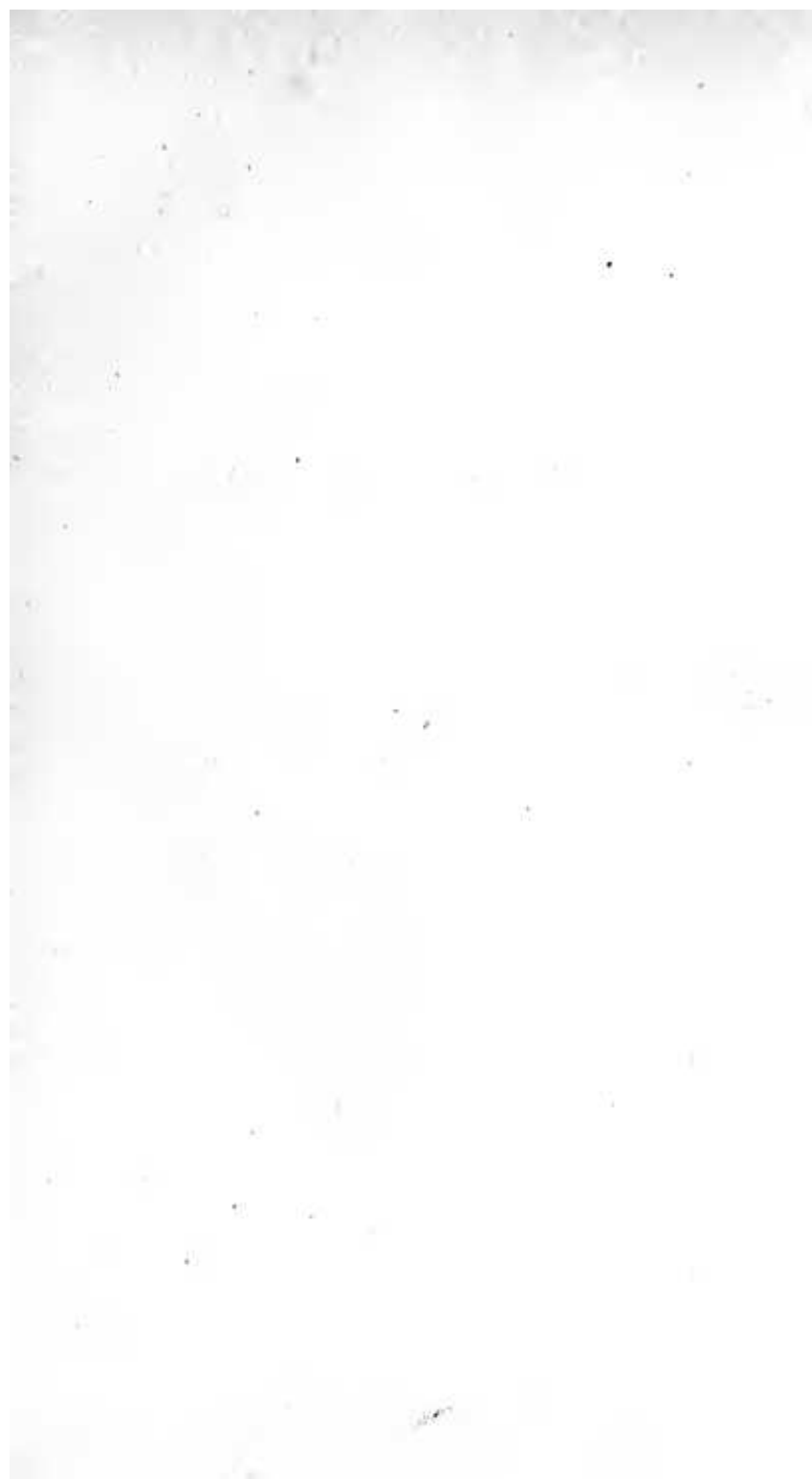
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TO THE MEMORY OF MY BROTHER
WILLIAM THOMPSON PATER
WHO QUITTED A USEFUL AND HAPPY LIFE
SUNDAY APRIL 24 1887

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ET LUX PERPETUA LUCEAT EI

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STYLE

SINCE all progress of mind consists for the most part in differentiation, in the resolution of an obscure and complex object into its component aspects, it is surely the stupidest of losses to confuse things which right reason has put asunder, to lose the sense of achieved distinctions, the distinction between poetry and prose, for instance, or, to speak more exactly, between the laws and characteristic excellences of verse and prose composition. On the other hand, those who have dwelt most emphatically on the distinction between prose and verse, prose and poetry, may sometimes have been tempted to limit the proper functions of prose too narrowly; and this again is at least false economy, as being, in effect, the renunciation of a certain means or faculty, in a world where after all we must needs make the most of things. Critical efforts to limit art *a priori*, by anticipations regarding the natural incapacity of the material with which this or that artist works, as the sculptor with solid form, or the prose-writer with the