

HENRY JAMES, A CRITICAL STUDY

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Henry James, a critical study by Ford Madox Hueffer

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FORD MADDOX HUEFFER

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A CRITICAL STUDY

BY

FORD MADOX ^{Ford} (HUEFFER)

NEW YORK

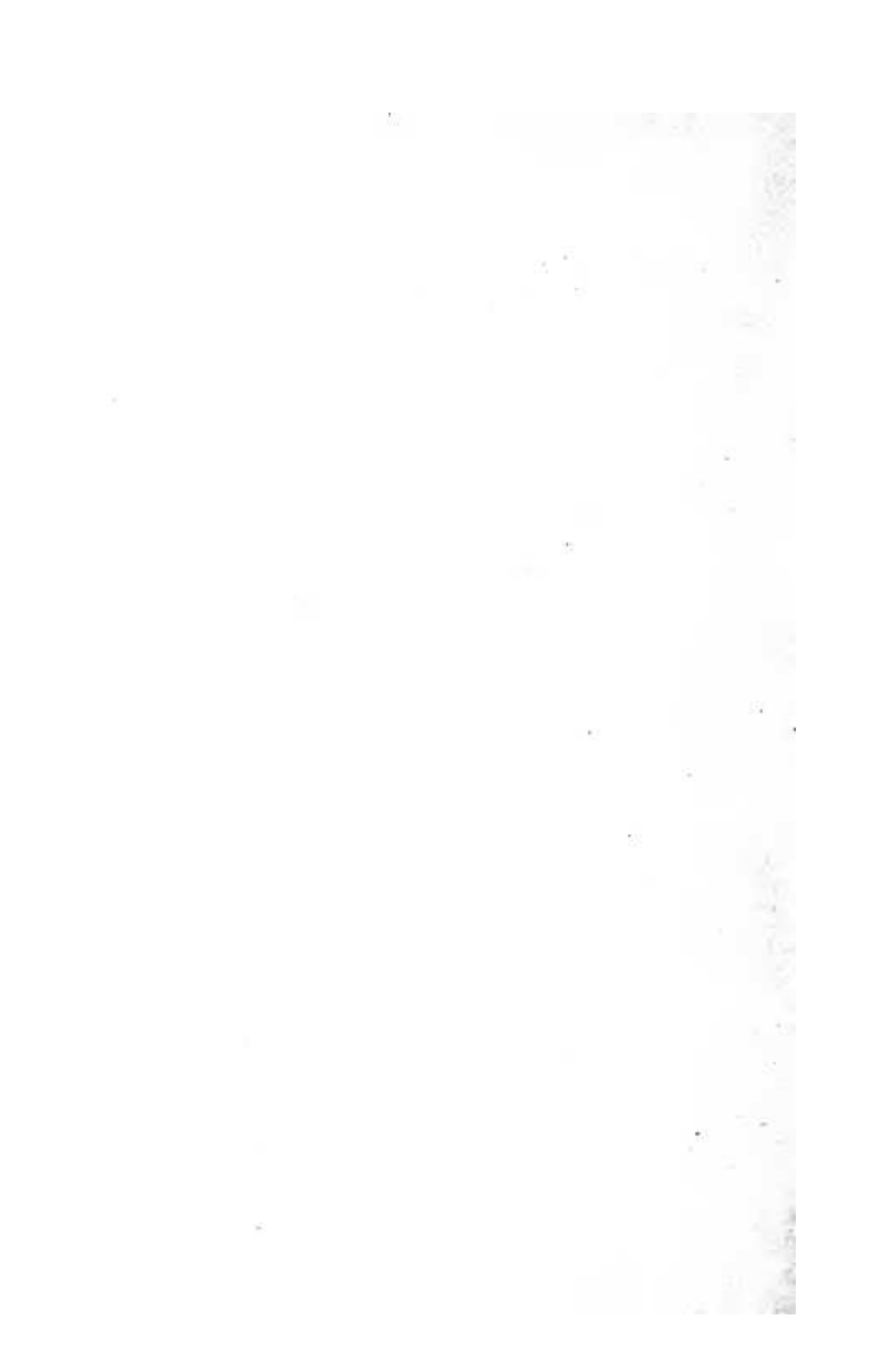
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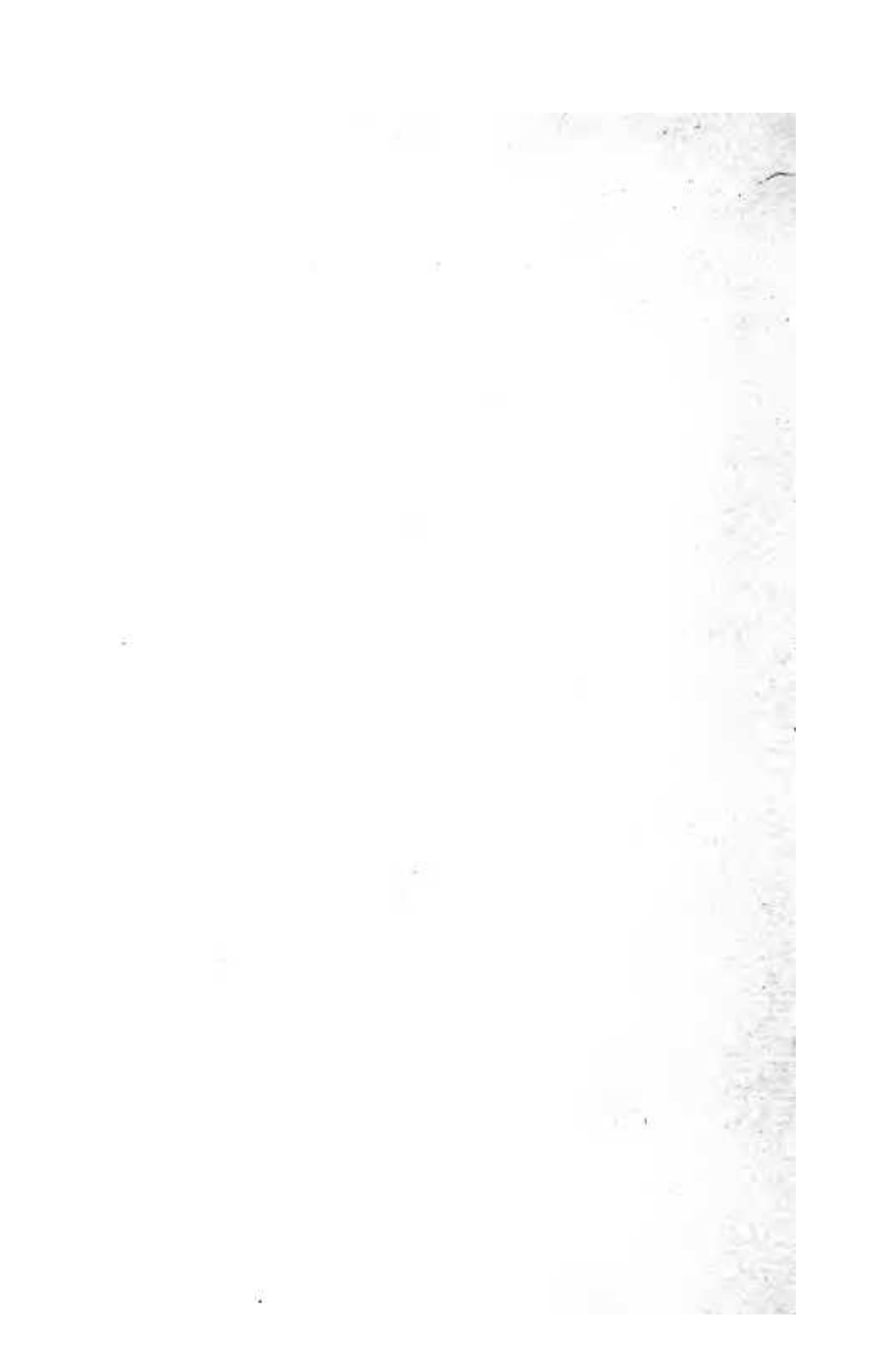
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TO
MRS. EDWARD HERON ALLEN
WHO SO MUCH LIGHTENED THESE
LABOURS, THIS, WITH
AFFECTION



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I

INTRODUCTION

LET me say at once that I regard the works of Mr. Henry James as those most worthy of attention by the critics—most worthy of attention of all the work that is to-day pouring from the groaning presses of continents. In saying this I conceal for the moment my private opinion—which doesn't in the least matter to anyone, though it is an opinion that can hardly be called anything but mature—that Mr. James is the greatest of living writers and in consequence, for me, the greatest of living men. ✓

I might, that is to say, have thought, as I have, that Mr. James is the greatest of living men without ever contemplating thus setting out to write a book about him. A man may be supremely great and offer no opportunity for comment of any kind. I cannot, that is to say, imagine any serious writer setting to work to say anything about Shakespeare, about Turgenieff, or for the matter of that about Nelson or Moltke. There are people who just "are," consummate in various degrees, perfect