

**THE AUTOCRAT OF
THE BREAKFAST
TABLE, VOL. I**

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The autocrat of the breakfast table, Vol. I by Oliver Wendell Holmes

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OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

**THE AUTOCRAT OF
THE BREAKFAST
TABLE, VOL. I**

AUTHOR'S EDITION, WITH LATEST ADDITIONS
AND ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES.

THE AUTOCRAT
OF
THE BREAKFAST TABLE
EVERY MAN HIS OWN BOSWELL.

THE AUTOCRAT
OF THE
BREAKFAST TABLE

BY
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES



Author's Edition

VOL. I.

EDINBURGH
DAVID DOUGLAS, CASTLE STREET
1886

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CONTENTS.

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| AN AFTER-BREAKFAST TALK, | ix |
| TO THE READERS OF THE AUTOCRAT OF THE BREAKFAST-TABLE, | xlii |
| THE AUTOCRAT'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY, | xlv |
| THE AUTOCRAT OF THE BREAKFAST-TABLE, | 1 |

AN AFTER-BREAKFAST TALK.

THE early readers of *The Atlantic Monthly* will permit me, as an acquaintance of long standing, to speak freely with them from its pages, and, as it were, face to face. They have met me often: sometimes in my avowed personality; sometimes under a transparent mask, which might be a shield, but could not be a disguise.

Twenty-five years ago I introduced myself to them, in the first number of this magazine, as The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table. Twenty-five years before that time, under the same title, in the pages of the *New England Magazine*, I had asked the public to sit down with me at my morning refection. I should blush to think of the entertainment to which I invited the readers of that earlier periodical, had I not learned