

**COUNTRIES OF THE
MIND; ESSAYS IN
LITERARY CRITICISM**

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Countries of the mind; essays in literary criticism by John Middleton Murry

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JOHN MIDDLETON MURRY

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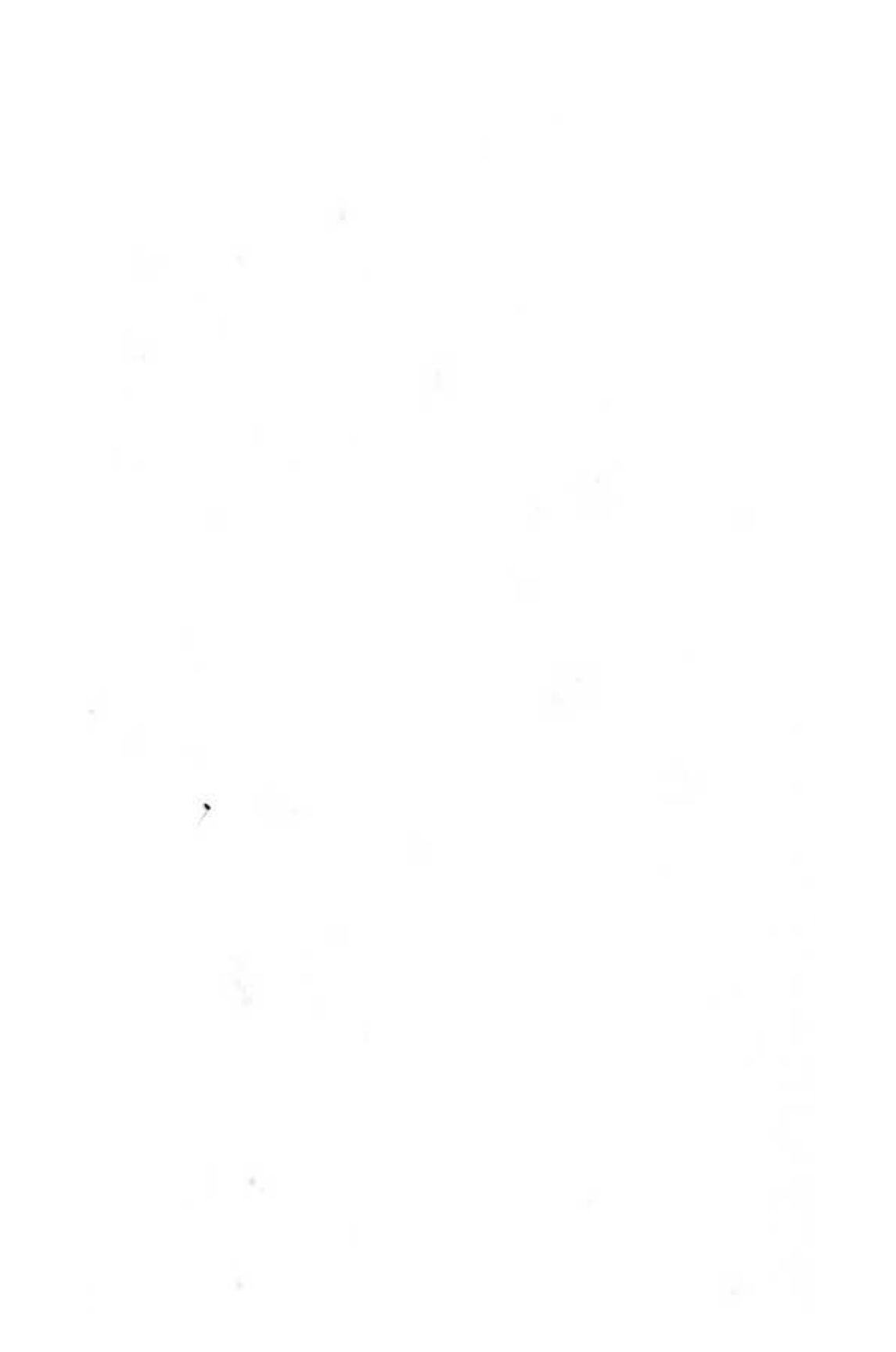
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Prefatory Note



Prefatory Note

THE majority of these essays originally appeared in *The Times Literary Supplement*; others in the *Nation and Athenæum*, the *London Mercury*, the *Dial*, and the *New Republic*. I have to thank the editors of these periodicals for permission to reprint them.

Many of them were written on the occasion of anniversaries. There is something arbitrary, therefore, in grouping them in a single volume; and yet perhaps their association is not really quite so accidental as may at first sight appear. The year 1821, in which Dostoevsky, Baudelaire, Flaubert, and Amiel were born, was obviously a crucial moment in the spiritual history of the nineteenth century; and these four men, animated by a similar spirit of disillusion, are best understood in relation to one another. Dostoevsky, it is true, is treated only incidentally in this volume: but I may be allowed to refer the reader to my earlier book, *Fyodor Dostoevsky: A Critical Study*.

The two essays on Shakespeare, the one as general as the other is particular, deal with what is essentially the same subject; while the two essays on Clare and Collins are complementary, as exhibiting two directly contrasted types of poetic sensibility.

Underlying all the essays in this volume is a theory of the psychology of literary creation, which is expounded in greater detail in a series of lectures