

**THOMAS DELONEY: HIS
THOMAS OF READING,
AND THREE BALLADS
ON THE PANISH ARMADA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649244140

Thomas Deloney: his Thomas of Reading, and Three ballads on the panish Armada by Thomas Deloney & Charles Roberts Aldrich & Lucian Swift Kirtland

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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**THOMAS DELONEY & CHARLES
ROBERTS ALDRICH & LUCIAN SWIFT KIRTLAND**

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ON THE PANISH ARMADA**

The Pleasant Historie
of
Thomas of Reading.



THOMAS DELONEY
HIS
Thomas of Reading

AND
THREE BALLADS ON THE
SPANISH ARMADA

Edited with Notes and Introduction

BY
CHARLES ROBERTS ALDRICH

AND
LUCIAN SWIFT KIRTLAND



NEW YORK
J. F. TAYLOR & COMPANY
MCMIII

Of this Edition of THOMAS DELONEY, HIS
THOMAS OF READING and THREE BALLADS ON
THE SPANISH ARMADA, *Fifty Copies* have been
printed at The Westminster Press, on Japan
Vellum, of which this is Copy No.

Introduction to
Thomas of Reading.



The Lamentation of Mr. Pages Wife

Of Plimouth, who, being forc'd to wed him, consented to his
Murder, for the loue of G. Strangwidge : for
which they suffered at Barnstable
in Devonshire.

The Tune is Fortune my Foe, &c.

THE ENGLISH NOVEL, as a distinct literary form, practically dates from the age of Elizabeth. Not that the needful materials had not long been present in literature: it was simply that much time had to pass before these materials were combined, according to certain ideas and purposes of art, into this particular shape. Many romances of adventure had come and gone; and one, the *Morte Darthur*, had come to stay. This lacks only form: from its substance many novels might be made — “For herein may be seen noble chivalry, courtesy, humanity, friendliness, hardiness, love, friendship, cowardice, murder, hate, virtue, and sin.” In his earnest, straightforward way Malory had set down not only the heroic ideals of knighthood: he had given examples of great episodes of passion, such as the stories of Tristram and Isoud and Launcelot and Guenever—stories destined to live in all subsequent literature. Pub. 1485.

In contrast with the serious idealism of the *Morte Darthur* was the humorous realism of the *fabliaux*. These were short verse-narratives, probably very numerous and very popular in 13th Century.