

SWINBURNE; A CRITICAL STUDY

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Swinburne; a critical study by T. Earle Welby

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T. EARLE WELBY

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A CRITICAL STUDY

BY

T. EARLE WELBY

LONDON

ELKIN MATHEWS, CORK STREET

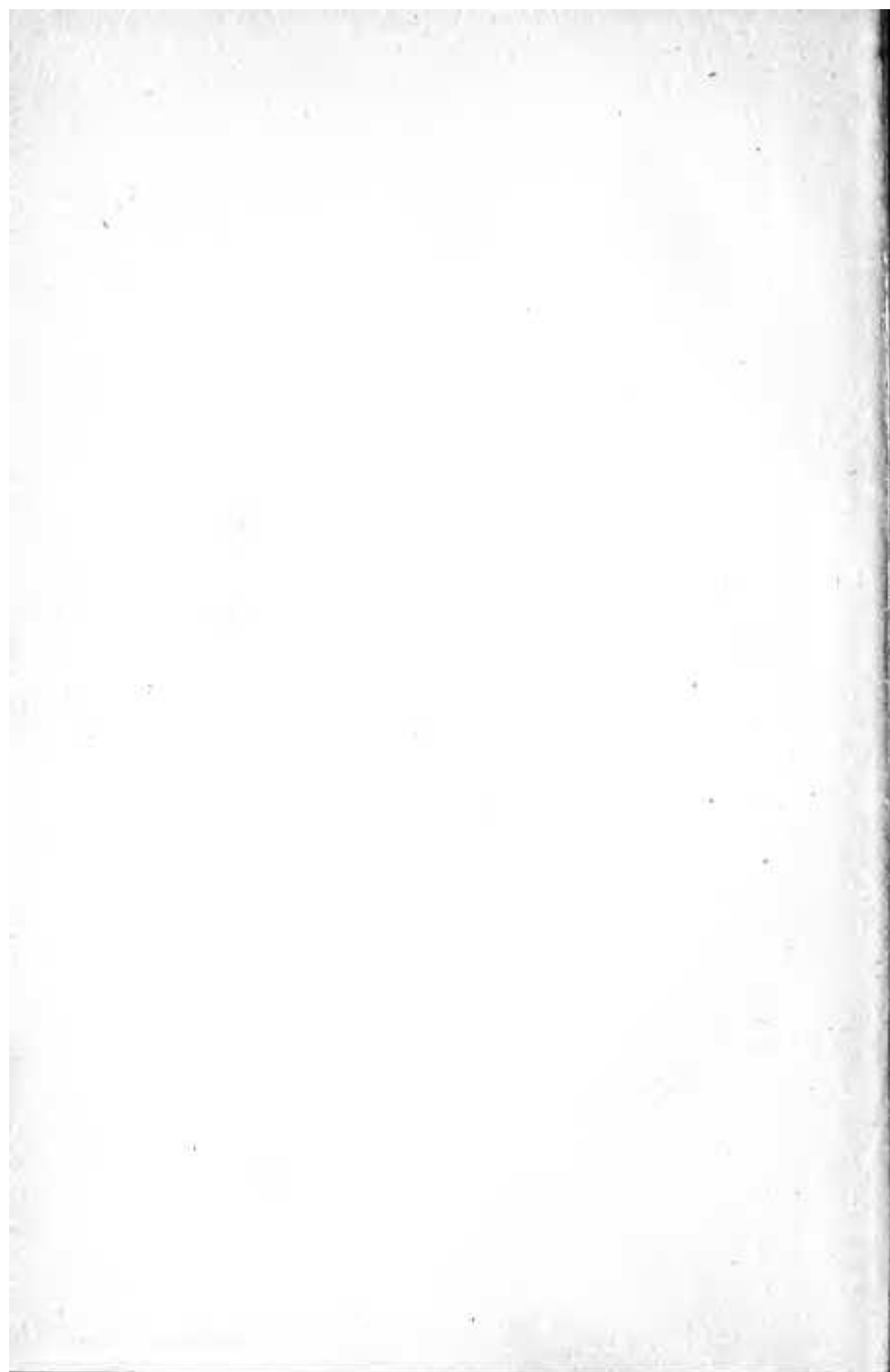
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To
THE MEMORY OF
MY FATHER AND MY MOTHER

*The Author's thanks are due to the Executors of
the late MR. THEODORE WATTS-DUNTON for
kind permission to make the various extracts
from the poems of the late A. C. SWINBURNE
in this book*

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INTRODUCTION

IT was the singular fortune of the great poet with whom we are concerned in this book to be regarded for a considerable part of his life as a pioneer, whereas he was actually the last poet of an epoch almost at its close when his earliest works were published. As I am trying to point out elsewhere, in a book on the poets of the generation next after that to which Swinburne belonged, the error of those who took him in the sixties for the forerunner of a new movement was natural enough. Although the youngest of his group, Swinburne was the first member of it to attract general attention. The *Germ* had appeared while he was yet a schoolboy, *The Oxford and Cambridge Magazine* before he proceeded to the University; but neither of these short-lived periodicals had been much heeded by the general public. Morris had published "The Defence of Guinevere" in 1858, but that very remarkable volume, containing some of the strongest and most original verse he ever wrote, had missed recognition outside a