

**EIGHTEENTH
CENTURY
VIGNETTES**

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Eighteenth century vignettes by Austin Dobson

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AUSTIN DOBSON

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VIGNETTES

FIRST SERIES

BY

AUSTIN DOBSON

*"Faute d'archanges, il faut aimer des
créatures imparfaites"*

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TO
HAMILTON W. MABIE,
These Pages
ARE CORDIALLY INSCRIBED.



PREFACE

TO THE FIRST EDITION OF 1892.

FIFTEEN of the twenty papers comprised in this volume appeared in the New York 'Christian Union,' at the suggestion of whose Editor the series was begun. Only one of these fifteen — 'The Citizen of the World' — has been reprinted in England. Of the five papers remaining, 'Old Vauxhall Gardens' was published in 'Scribner's Magazine;' and the other four in the 'Saturday Review,' 'Longman's Magazine,' the 'National Review,' and the 'Library' respectively. Where permission to reprint was required, it has been obtained; and is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

With the exception of the last two, which are more general in character than the rest, the papers are chronologically arranged. They do not by any means exhaust the original list of subjects drawn up by their writer for the