

# REMINISCENCES

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Reminiscences by Arthur Coleridge & J. A. Fuller-Maitland

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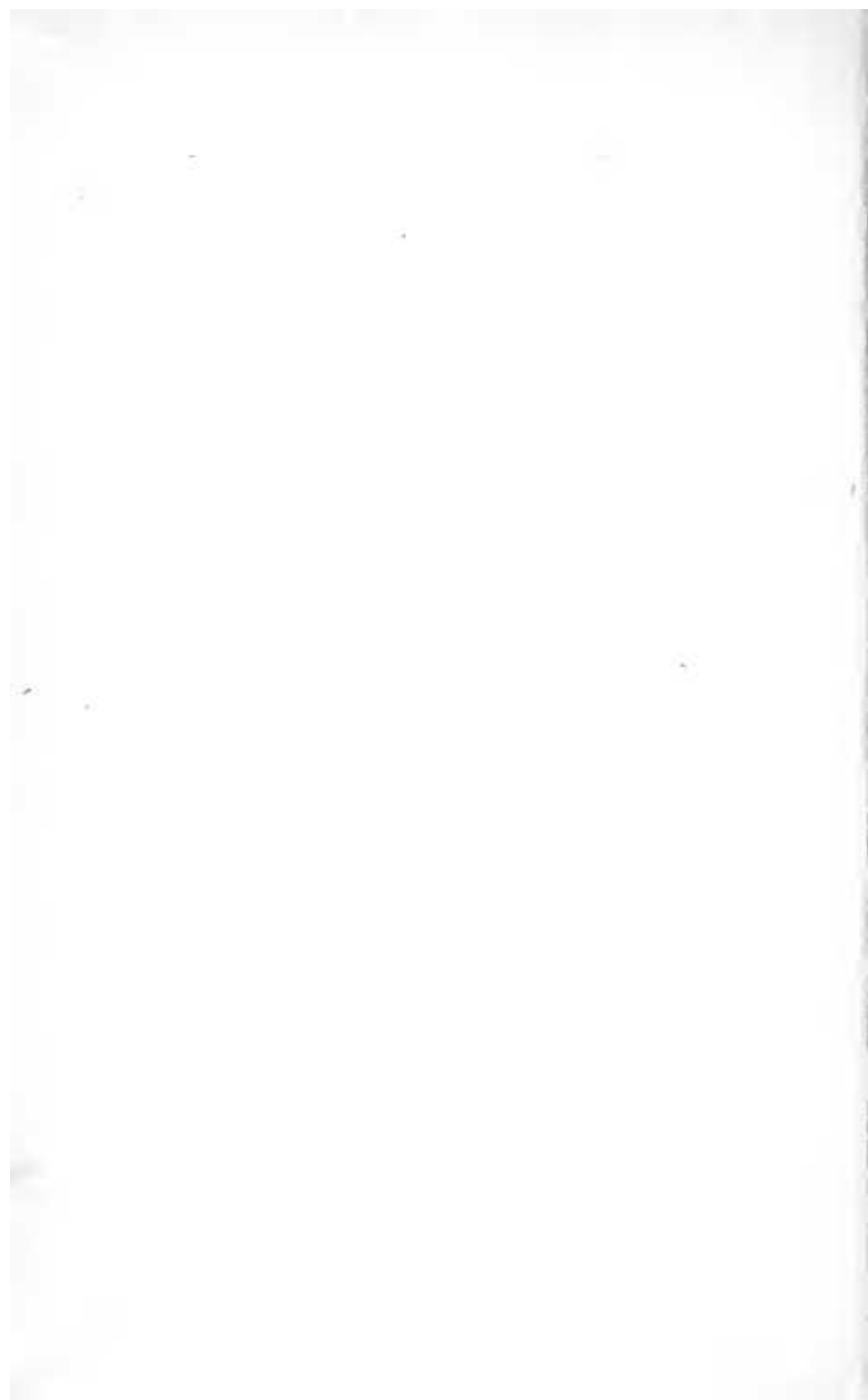
**ARTHUR COLERIDGE & J. A. FULLER-MAITLAND**

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J. A. FULLER-MAITLAND

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## PREFACE

[ARTHUR DUKE COLERIDGE, born at Ottery St. Mary,  
Feb. 1, 1830; died in London, Oct. 29, 1913.]

VERY few people have had so fine a gift for friendship as Arthur Coleridge; at the same time his versatility was so great, and his many sides so delightful, that no memoir written by any one of his friends could possibly give an adequate idea of what he was, unless that person could be supposed to combine the functions of a bishop, an opera singer, and a judge. In any of these capacities Coleridge would have left his mark upon the world, and in any of them he would have paid homage to those who were prominent in the other two. His inexhaustible fund of admiration was due to no snobbery of the mind, but was a natural recognition of personal achievement and official dignity. His religious faith was childlike and steadfast, and attendance at a daily service was almost essential to his happiness and well-being. This devotion to the church of his fathers passed on to her

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human representatives ; he was as incapable as Dr. Johnson of contradicting a bishop, and there is a story of an old friend who, meeting him on the steps of the Athenaeum, and guessing from his expression that some church dignitary was indisposed, hazarded the question, " Well, Arthur, how's the Dean ? " receiving a detailed bulletin on the health of some one of whom the questioner had never heard. So great was his admiration for the office of organist that he would often maintain that the Athenaeum should confer its highest distinction, that of election under Rule II., upon the organists of the principal London churches, without regard to their musical merits or social standing. Many cathedral organists became his intimate friends, and a friendship once formed was exceedingly difficult to forfeit. He was not given to making friends rapidly, but there was nothing he would not do for a friend once taken to his heart.

His official work, which brought him into association with so many judges, is dealt with in the last chapter of these reminiscences by two of his circuit intimates, one of whom often undertook Coleridge's duties towards the end of his life. Mr. E. Spencer Holland

has accomplished the difficult task of filling a very unfortunate gap in these recollections; the chapter of legal stories had been almost completed by Arthur Coleridge, and after his death was revised, with a view to enlargement, by three of his old friends; in the course of transmission from one to another it disappeared, and what now takes its place as the last chapter of this book is hardly more than a pale reflection of what the section was at first.

Coleridge left his *Reminiscences* complete, all but the chapter on Cambridge, and his recollections of literary and artistic people. These have been filled out with the aid of some bulky volumes, neither wholly journals nor wholly extract books, in which he would put down whatever struck him in books or in life. It is not always easy to disentangle that which has been published before from that which is new in these books, which were used for *Eton in the Forties*, for the chapter contributed to *Tennyson and his Friends*, and for various articles, as well as for the lectures on musicians delivered in various parts of the country. By means of these an important work was done in helping the musical revival in England. They were