

**FIVE SHORT COURSES  
OF READING IN  
ENGLISH LITERATURE**

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Five Short Courses of Reading in English Literature by C. T. Winchester

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SHORT COURSES OF READING

IN

ENGLISH LITERATURE

*With Biographical and Critical References*

BY

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## P R E F A C E.



THESE courses of reading were prepared originally for college students, and have been used for several years by classes under my instruction. Frequent requests for copies of the lists of books assigned for reading have induced me to revise and enlarge them, and to print them in a more permanent and convenient form. It is thought that, as now arranged, they may perhaps be of some service not only to other teachers, but to reading-clubs, librarians, and any other readers who are beginning the systematic study of our literature. It is evident, of course, throughout, that, in the books chosen, the editions recommended, the passages assigned to be memorized, this little manual is intended as a guide for the general reader or the beginner, and not for the advanced student of literature.

The courses are — as they are named — short. Only so much reading has been assigned to each one as it has been found practicable for a college student to do thoroughly in connection with an elementary study of literary history extending through one year. Each course is, however, followed by a list of Additional Reading for readers who have time and inclination to make a somewhat more thorough study of the period

it covers; and it is believed that the five courses, taken together with the supplementary lists, will represent not very inadequately the nature and progress of English Literature from the beginning of the Elizabethan period to the present day.

I have confined my selections to *belles lettres*, and have made no attempt to represent the wealth of English writing in history or politics, philosophy or religion. Exception to this rule is made only in the cases where an author, in some one of these departments, by the force of his personality or by the power and charm of his style, has given to his work permanent literary quality. Even the narrowest definition of literature certainly ought not to exclude the best writing of Swift and Burke, of Jeremy Taylor and Cardinal Newman. In the fifth course all selections from fiction have been omitted. This, not because fiction is an unimportant part of the literature of the last half century; but rather because the reader can have little difficulty in choosing for himself the best books of the best recent novelists, while to choose among the host of second-best is not the purpose of this guide.

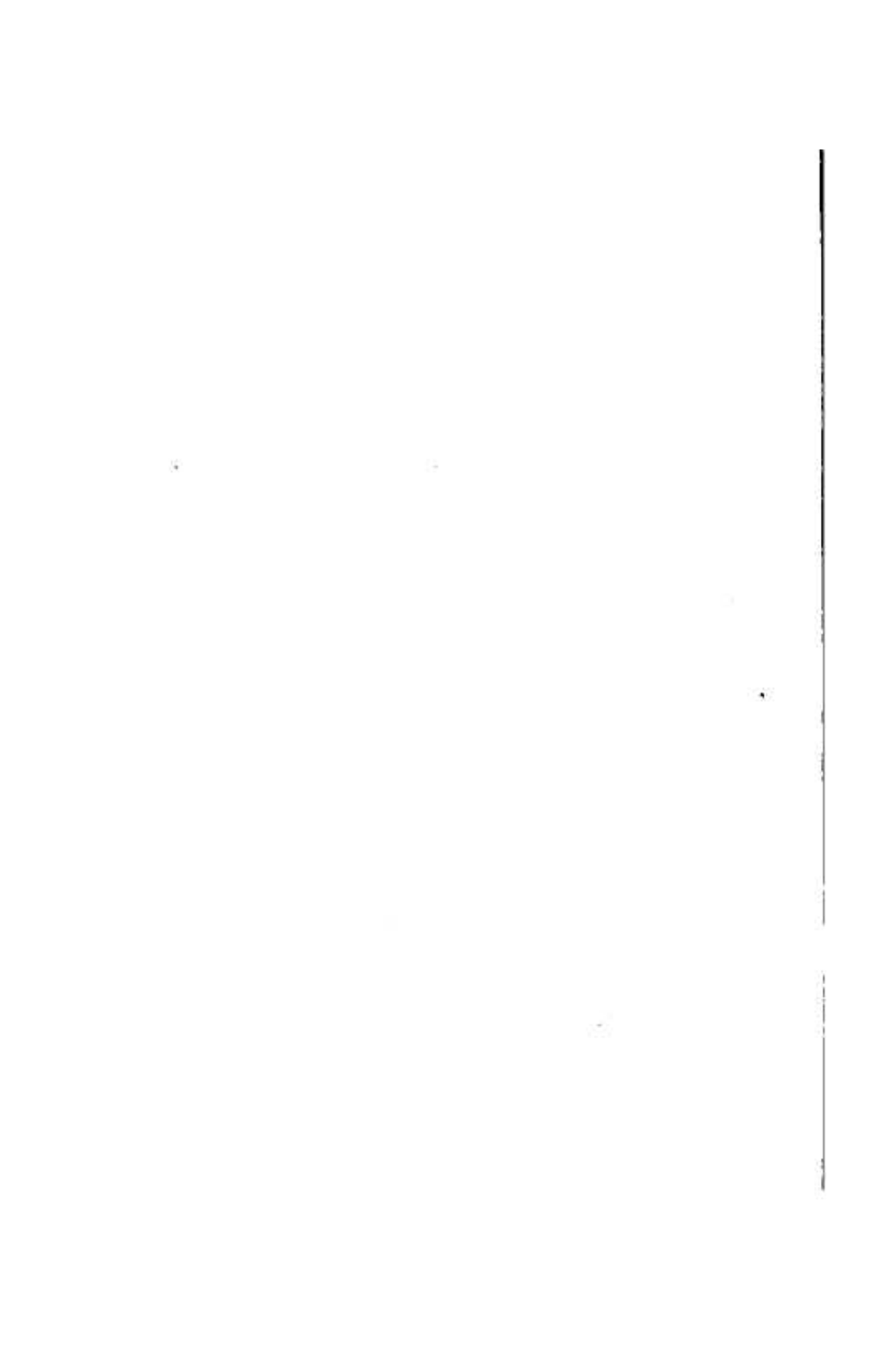
As a rule, I have recommended not extracts or quotations, but entire works. In some cases, however, where a book or poem is so long that it would be impracticable to include the whole of it in a course so brief as these must be, I have ventured to name a part; but only when such part is clearly separable from the



rest of the work and has some distinct unity of its own.

It will be obvious that the biographical and critical references given with each course make no pretension to bibliographical completeness. These lists aim to be judicious rather than exhaustive. No effort is made to give a full series of biographical data for any author. At the head of each list is usually placed one *brief*, but recent and accurate biography, such as is likely to prove most serviceable to the class of readers for whom these lists are intended; then follows the standard life — if any such there be — and after that, in chronological order, such other works as seem, for any reason, to be of most lasting interest. Similarly, the lists of critical references include only such writing as can present some claim to independent and permanent value as literature.

No references have been given to periodical literature. This rule does, indeed, exclude a few critical essays of the first order of merit that have not yet been collected into volumes; but only a few, and these mostly of recent date. Moreover, detailed references to periodical literature are hardly necessary any longer; all readers having access to long files of periodicals have access also to their "Poole."



## COURSE I.

MARLOWE — GREENE — SHAKSPERE  
BACON — MILTON.

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**Christopher Marlowe.** 1564-1593.

The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus.

**Robert Greene.** 1550(?)-1592.

Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay.

**William Shakspeare.** 1564-1616.

Henry Fourth, Parts 1 and 2.

As You Like It.

Hamlet.

Antony and Cleopatra.

Winter's Tale.

Sonnets, Nos. 29, 30, 33, 73, 98, 99, 110, 111,  
116, 146.

**Francis Bacon.** 1561-1626.

Essays, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 11, 16, 19, 22, 27,  
46, 50.