A BRIEF HANDBOOK OF ENGLISH AUTHORS

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A brief handbook of English authors by Oscar Fay Adams

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OSCAR FAY ADAMS

A BRIEF HANDBOOK OF ENGLISH AUTHORS



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BRIEF HANDBOOK

OF

ENGLISH AUTHORS

BY

OSCAR FAY ADAMS

Fourth Edition, Revised and Enlarged



BOSTON
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New York: 11 East Seventeenth Street
The Hiberside Press, Cambridge
1887

To

HORACE E. SCUDDER,

THE WRITER

Corbially Enscribes the Ellerk

WHICH OWES SO MUCH

TO HIS FRIENDLY SUGGESTION.



PREFACE.

This brief handbook is intended simply for every-day use, when reference to larger works of the kind may not be convenient. Experience has proved that the small book which can be readily taken up is consulted far more frequently than the ponderous volume that requires great muscular exertion to lift.

In the world of letters as in the world of society conventionality plays no unimportant part, as every student of literature knows. That there is such a thing as "conventional immortality" every biographical dictionary yields abundant evidence. Even so small a work as this must necessarily contain many names that have achieved this conventional immortality through the accident of circumstance. Some literary fames are among the legacies left by preceding centuries to the present one to account for and explain. And when all is said, "the iniquity of oblivion blindly scattereth her poppy and dealeth with the memory of men without distinction to merit of perpetuity."

OSCAR FAY ADAMS.

ERIE, PA., October 28, 1883.



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