

SHORT STUDIES IN LITERATURE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649704323

Short Studies in Literature by Hamilton Wright Mabie

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HAMILTON WRIGHT MABIE

**SHORT STUDIES
IN LITERATURE**

WORKS BY MR. MABIE.

MY STUDY FIRE.

MY STUDY FIRE, Second Series.

UNDER THE TREES AND ELSE-
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SHORT STUDIES IN LITERATURE.

ESSAYS IN LITERARY INTERPRE-
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LITERATURE * * * BY 
HAMILTON WRIGHT MABIE

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TORONTO: PUBLISHED BY
GEORGE N. MORANG
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Printed at the University Press by John Wilson and Son,
Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

PREFACE.

THAT these brief chapters may prove helpful to readers of books who desire to become students of literature, is the hope which the writer ventures to cherish in the face of defects more obvious to him than to the most unsympathetic critic. These studies are not critical but interpretative ; they are neither exhaustive nor inclusive ; they are mainly hints and suggestions. Each chapter might be elaborated into a volume. If they serve to indicate the leading lines of literary development, the fundamental divisions and distinctions, the deep and vital tendencies, they will accomplish the end for which they were written. That they represent deep convictions concerning the significance of literature rather than a purely critical attitude, will be apparent to the most indifferent reader. The writer is glad of an opportunity of putting forth what he trusts may be, to some readers at least, a book of insight, rather than a contribution to the

large and invaluable mass of books of literary scholarship. It is the inevitable limitation of a volume dealing with so large a subject within so small a compass that it must be, in a sense, superficial; if it shall lead any reader to that deeper study of books which opens the heart of literature, the reproach of superficiality will be gladly borne. The indebtedness of the writer of a series of studies covering so wide a field to his predecessors and contemporaries in literary history and criticism must necessarily be very great. Special indebtedness to Professor C. C. Everett for his admirable illustration of the tragic forces in life is gratefully acknowledged.

SEPTEMBER, 1891.

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