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SERIES. SELECTIONS FROM
THE WRITINGS OF WALTER
SAVAGE LANDOR**

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WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR & W. B. SHUBRICK CLYMER

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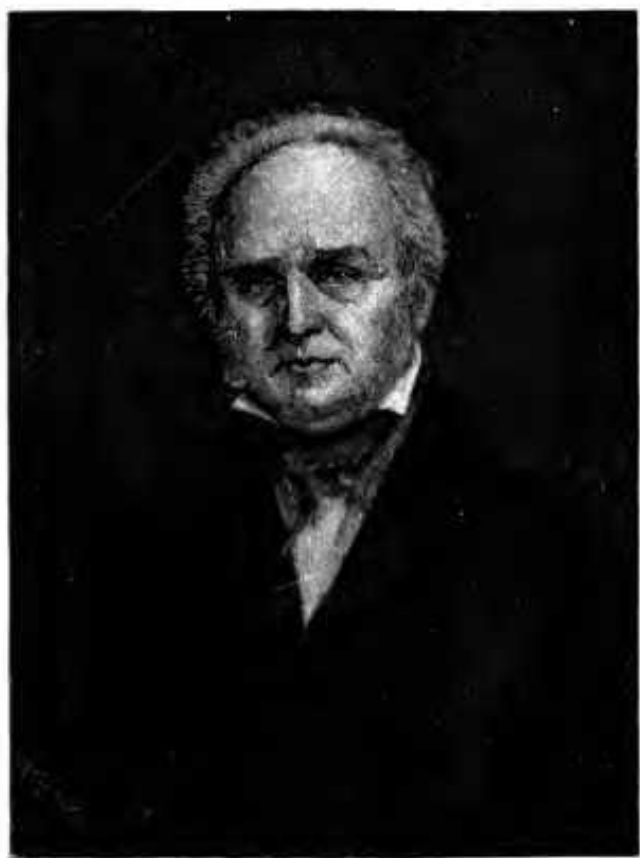
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SELECTIONS

FROM THE WRITINGS OF

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

W. B. SHUBRICK CLYMER

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PREFACE.

THE first edition of John Forster's *Life of Landor* was published by Chapman and Hall, in two volumes, in 1869; in 1876, abridged, it formed the first volume of Forster's eight-volume edition of *The Works and Life of Walter Savage Landor*; in 1895 the second edition was reprinted. In this biography is stored almost all the information of any consequence relating to Landor; and Forster's is the standard text of the collected writings. The ample material in the biography is not especially well put together, nor is the appraisal always closely accurate. To a special student of the subject, however, the book is invaluable. Mr. Sidney Colvin's *Landor (English Men of Letters)* gives as full an account as any one but a special student cares for. In his volume of *Selections (Golden Treasury Series)* he attains, by rare skill in choice and arrangement, and by means of a really luminous preface and notes, that high point of critical merit which entitles him to the commendation bestowed by Landor on one who praises an author "becomingly." Mr. Charles G. Crump's comparatively recent *variorum* edition of the writings, with instructive critical notes, is based on Forster. In 1897 appeared *Letters and Other Unpublished Writings of Walter Savage Landor*, edited by Mr. Stephen Wheeler. The new material is not particularly important; but the editor's work is done with such good taste and judgment that the book cannot fail to interest an admirer of Landor. It has a well-made bibliography. The *Scott Library* contains,

in convenient form, a good assortment of *Imaginary Conversations*, the *Pentameron*, and *Pericles and Aspasia*. The fullest American reprint of the prose is that published by Roberts Brothers.

Mr. Swinburne's article on Landor in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, so strangely stimulating a blend of dithyramb and discernment as no other mortal could ever have produced, is to be read with mental reservations and qualifications. His *Song for the Centenary of Walter Savage Landor* is an encomium, in detail, of pretty much everything Landor wrote. In sharp contrast to Mr. Swinburne's apotheosis is Mr. Leslie Stephen's searching, and in some degree destructive, analysis (*Hours in a Library*). Irritating though the sarcastically depreciatory manner of the essay may be to youthful enthusiasm, yet the estimate is in the main so sound that mature and dispassionate reflection overlooks the lack of sympathy. It is by odds the cleverest thing in print on Landor. The article in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, also by Mr. Leslie Stephen, states the facts concisely, and concludes with an admirably just summing up of Landor as man and writer.

Among occasional contributions to the subject are Mrs. Browning's (then Miss Barrett) essay in Horne's *New Spirit of the Age* (1844); Miss Kate Field's three articles in the *Atlantic Monthly* (1866); Mrs. Linton's article in *Fraser's Magazine* (July, 1870); Lord Houghton's *Monograph* (1873); Mr. Horace E. Scudder's characterisation (*Men and Letters*); Professor Dowden's essay (*Studies in Literature*); Professor G. E. Woodberry's (*Studies in Letters and Life*); Mr. Aubrey de Vere's (*Essays, chiefly on Poetry*); M. Gabriel Sarrazin's (*Poètes modernes de l'Angleterre*); and two articles by J. R. Lowell (*Massachusetts Quarterly*, 1848; *Century Magazine*, 1888). Mr. E. W. Evans's academic *Study* of Landor is systematic and thorough. Landor is treated at some