

**THE HUMOUR OF
HOMER, AND
OTHER ESSAYS**

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The Humour of Homer, and Other Essays by Samuel Butler & R. A. Streatfeild & Henry Festing Jones

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SAMUEL BUTLER & R. A. STREATFEILD & HENRY FESTING JONES

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HOMER, AND
OTHER ESSAYS**

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The Humour of Homer and Other Essays

By

Samuel Butler

Author of "Erewhon," "Erewhon Revisited,"
"The Way of all Flesh," etc.

Edited by

R. A. Streatfeild

With a biographical sketch of the author by Henry
Festing Jones, and a frontispiece portrait from a
photograph taken in 1889

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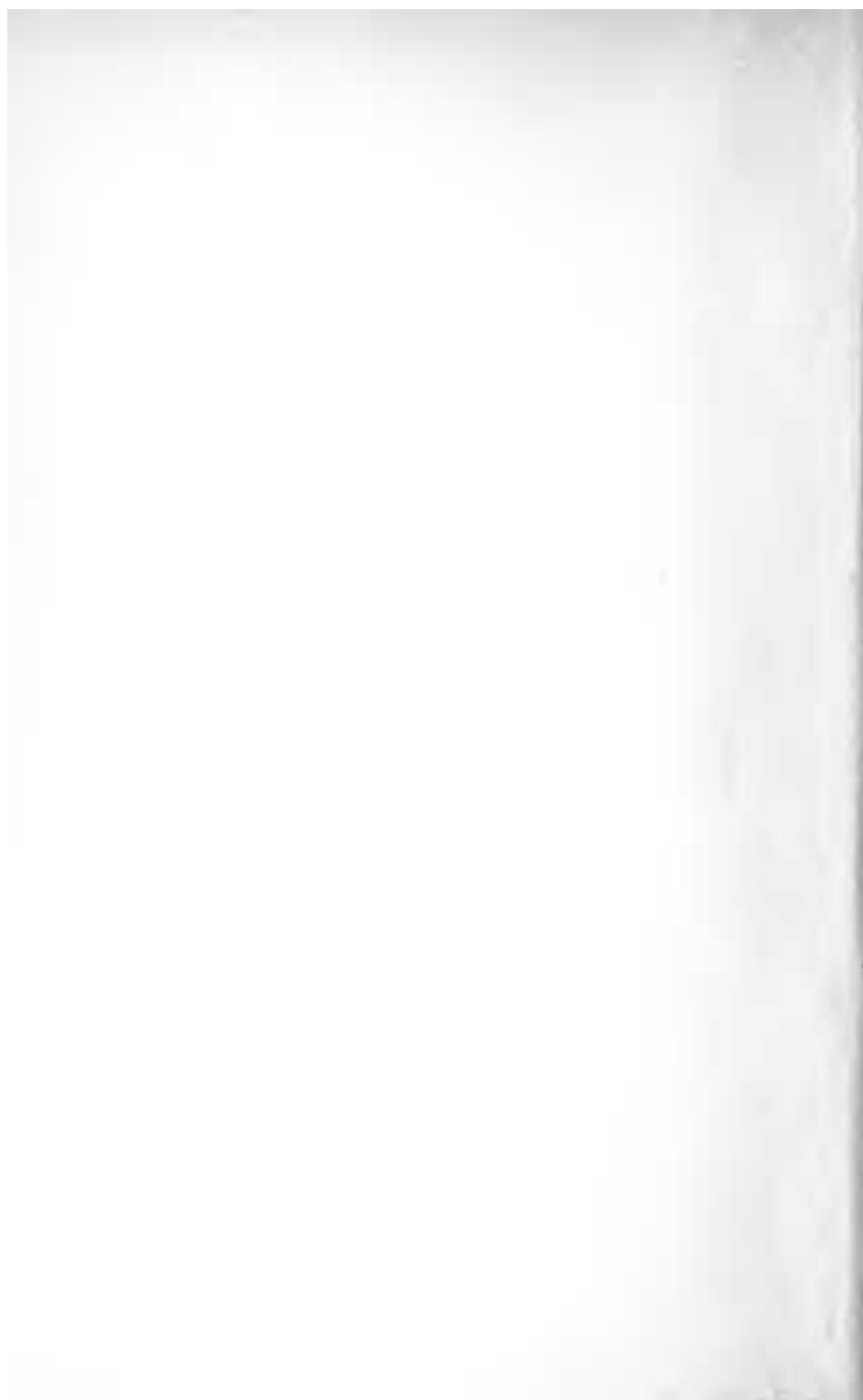
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Introduction

By R. A. Streatfeild

THE nucleus of this book is the collection of essays by Samuel Butler, which was originally published by Mr. Grant Richards in 1904 under the title *Essays on Life, Art and Science*, and reissued by Mr. Fifield in 1908. To these are now added another essay, entitled "The Humour of Homer," a biographical sketch of the author kindly contributed by Mr. Henry Festing Jones, which will add materially to the value of the edition, and a portrait in photogravure from a photograph taken in 1889—the period of the essays.

"The Humour of Homer" was originally delivered as a lecture at the Working Men's College in Great Ormond Street on the 30th January, 1892, the day on which Butler first promulgated his theory of the Trapanese origin of the *Odyssey* in a letter to the *Athenæum*. Later in the same year it was published with some additional matter by Messrs. Metcalfe and Co. of Cambridge. For the next five years Butler was engaged upon researches into the origin and authorship of the *Odyssey*, the results of which are embodied in his book *The Authoress of the "Odyssey,"* originally published by Messrs. Longman in 1897. Butler incorporated a good deal of "The Humour of Homer" into *The Authoress of the "Odyssey,"* but the section relating