

**SIX ESSAYS
ON JOHNSON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649243426

Six essays on Johnson by Walter Alexander Raleigh

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WALTER ALEXANDER RALEIGH

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BY

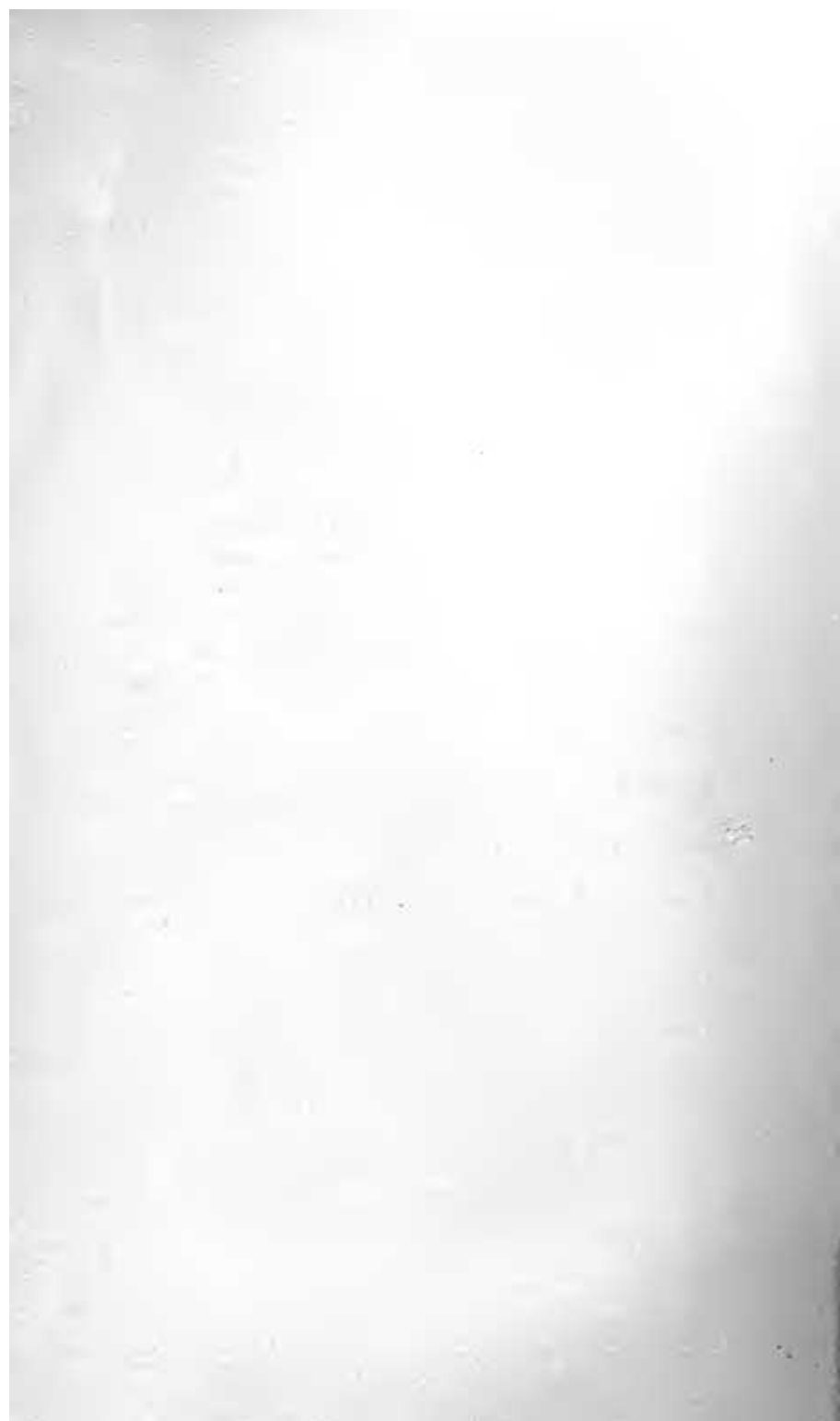
WALTER RALEIGH

OXFORD
AT THE CLARENDON PRESS
1910

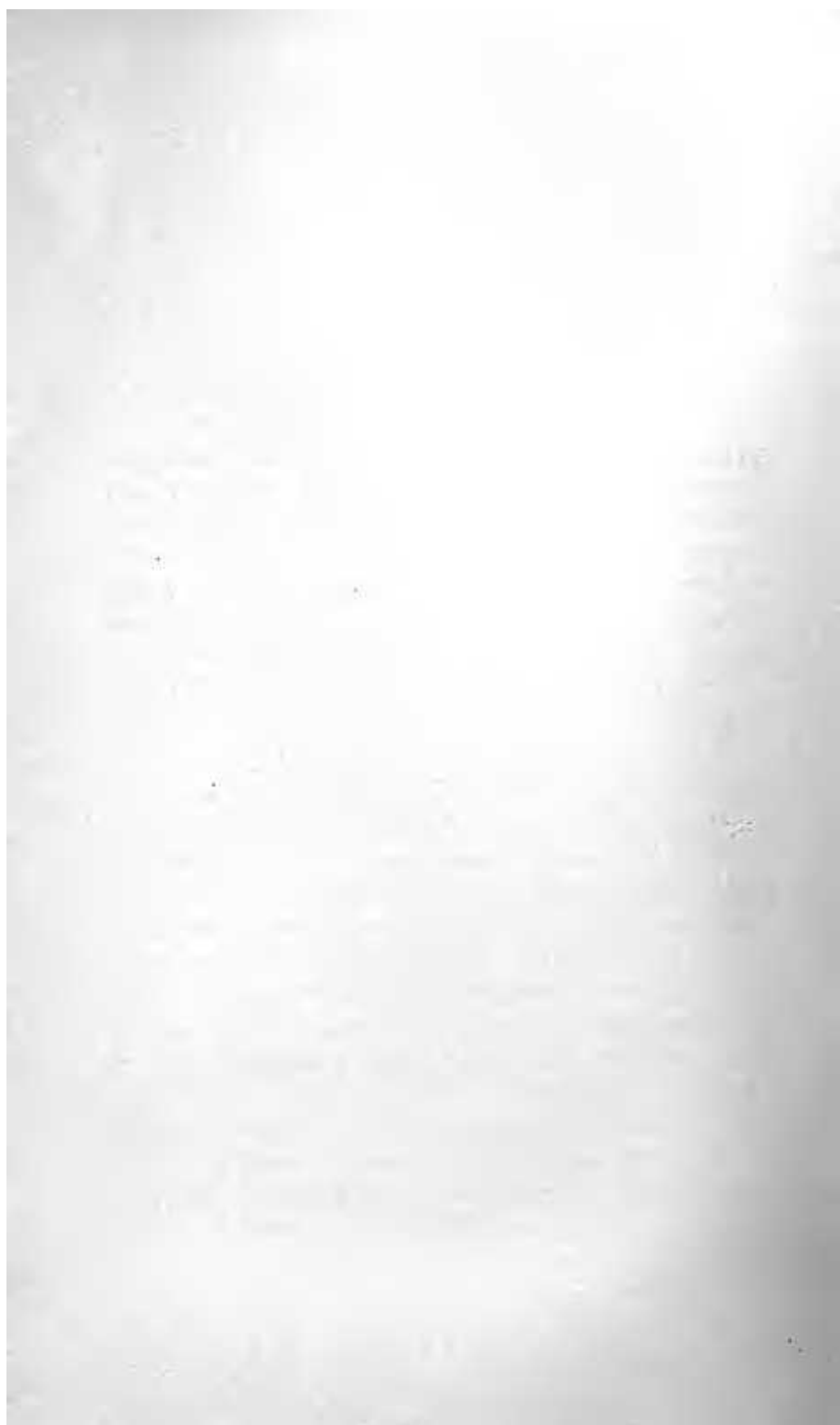
HENRY FROWDE, M.A.
PUBLISHER TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
LONDON, EDINBURGH, NEW YORK
TORONTO AND MELBOURNE

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THE essay on the two-hundredth anniversary of Johnson's birth appeared first in the Literary Supplement of the *Times*; that on *Early Lives of the Poets* in the *Scottish Historical Review*. For permission to reprint these essays I desire to thank the proprietors of the *Times* and Mr. James MacLehose. The Delegates of the Clarendon Press have kindly granted a similar permission for the essays on *Samuel Johnson* and on *Johnson's Shakespeare*. The essays on *Johnson without Boswell* and on *Johnson's Lives of the Poets* are here printed for the first time. I must not omit to express my deep obligations to the editions of Dr. Birkbeck Hill, which make the study of Johnson the easiest of pastimes.



I

SAMUEL JOHNSON

The Leslie Stephen Lecture, delivered in the Senate House,
Cambridge, February 22, 1907.

THE honour that the University of Cambridge has done me by asking me to deliver the first Leslie Stephen lecture is the best kind of honour, for it appeals even more to affection than to pride. Like most men whose trade is lecturing, I have known many Universities; but none of them can be so dear to memory as the place of my early friendships, and dreams, and idleness.

A quarter of a century ago I heard Leslie Stephen lecture in the Divinity Schools of this place. I saw him once again, on the uplands of Cornwall, but I never again heard his voice. You will not expect from me, therefore, any reminiscences, or intimate appreciation of his character. But I can say something of what I believe was very imperfectly known to him, the regard and reverence that was felt for him by a younger generation. A busy man of letters, always occupied with fresh tasks, has little time to study the opinions of his juniors. He makes his progress from book to book, without looking back, and knows more of the pains of doing than of the pleasures of the thing done. Far on in his career, while he is still struggling with his difficult material, he discovers, to his surprise, that the younger world regards him as a triumphant dictator and law-giver. Something of this kind I think happened to Leslie