

**MIXED VINTAGES, A  
BLEND OF ESSAYS  
OLD AND NEW**

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Mixed vintages, a blend of essays old and new by E. V. Lucas

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# MIXED VINTAGES

A BLEND OF ESSAYS OLD AND NEW

BY

E. V. LUCAS

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## PREFACE

THE ingredients of this volume have been collected from three recent collections of essays, one or two miscellaneous books, and from my contributions to *Punch*, *Land and Water*, and *The Outlook*. The account of the first Zeppelin attack on London is now printed for the first time.

E. V. L.

June 1919.





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## MIXED VINTAGES

### ON BEING SOMEBODY ELSE<sup>1</sup>

WALKING along Oxford Street the other day, I was aware of a new kind of cheap photographer's into which people were pouring as though it were a cinema and Mr. Chaplin were on view. And, after examining the specimen photographs in the frame by the door, I joined them, not for the purpose of facing the camera, but to observe young men and women in the entertaining pastime of escaping from the fact, or, in other words, of assuming more agreeable identities than their own.

For the novel characteristic of this studio is that for the trifling sum of one shilling it provides its patrons with six postcard photographs of themselves in fancy dress ; or, as a leaflet before me states, a shade too loosely perhaps for Lindley Murray, but with perfect clarity, beneath a list of scores of costumes, 'Every customer ordering six postcards for rs. are entitled to use which one of these garments they think best, free of charge.' What a privilege ! The list is exhaustive. It begins with Cowboys,

<sup>1</sup> From *Cloud and Silver* (Methuen & Co., Ltd.).