

**IN PRAISE OF BOOKS:
A VADE MECUM FOR
BOOK-LOVERS**

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In Praise of Books: A Vade Mecum for Book-Lovers by Various

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VARIOUS

**IN PRAISE OF BOOKS:
A VADE MECUM FOR
BOOK-LOVERS**



RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

IN PRAISE OF BOOKS

A VADE MECUM FOR BOOK-LOVERS

BY

NEARLY ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY GREAT AUTHORS

FROM

SOCRATES TO EMERSON



NEW YORK

THE PERKINS BOOK COMPANY

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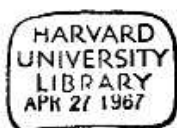
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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
IN PRAISE OF BOOKS.—BY RALPH WALDO EMERSON... ..	7
A SONG OF BOOKS.—BY SIR JOHN LUBBOCK.....	31
THE CHOICE OF BOOKS.—BY SIR JOHN LUBBOCK.....	41

AUTHORS QUOTED.

FROM SOCRATES TO EMERSON.

<i>Born.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Page.</i>	<i>Born.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Addison.....	1672	— 1719	— 65	Byron.....	1788 — 1804 — 78
Aikin.....	1747	— 1823	— 68	Carlyle.....	1796 — 1881 — 80
Alcott.....	1799	— 1886	— 32	Carlyle.....	— — 113
Allatius.....	1536	— 1569	— 53	Carr.....	1834 — — 109
Alonso of Aragon..	—	—	— 56	Chambers....	1808 — 1871 — 87
Anonymous.....	—	—	— 114	Channing....	1780 — 1843 — 75
Arnott.....	1788	— 1824	— 78	Charpentier..	1620 — 1702 — 62
Ascham.....	1513	— 1568	— 63	Chesterfield..	1694 — 1773 — 85
Axon.....	1844	— — —	— 110	Cicero.....	a.c. 106 — 41 — 53
Bacon.....	1561	— 1623	— 55	Clarendon.....	1606 — 1674 — 80
Barrow.....	1630	— 1677	— 6.	Clarke.....	Living — 111
Bartholin.....	1619	— 1680	— 61	Cobden.....	1804 — 1866 — 92
Baxter.....	1615	— 1691	— 61	Cockburn.....	1502 — 1680 — 85
Baynes.....	Living	—	— 113	Collier.....	1660 — 1738 — 63
Bedford, Earl of..	1613	— 1700	— 61	Collyer.....	1823 — — 106
Beecher.....	1813	— 1838	— 96	Colton.....	1790 — 1822 — 75
Bennoch.....	1812	— — —	— 95	Cook.....	1818 — — 104
Blades.....	Living	—	— 110	Corasius.....	— — 58
Blount.....	1654	— 1697	— 64	Crabbe.....	1754 — 1832 — 68
Bright.....	1811	— 1826	— 85	Daniel.....	1563 — 1619 — 55
Brown.....	1005	— 1632	— 50	Dawson.....	1821 — 1876 — 104
Browning.....	1809	— 1861	— 94	De Bury.....	— — 112
Bruyère.....	1644	— 1696	— 63	De Quincey...	1786 — 1859 — 78
Brydges.....	1722	— 1827	— 59	Disraeli, Isaac.....	1787 — 1848 — 79
Burton.....	1576	— 1640	— 56	Disraeli, Benjamin	
Bury.....	1297	— 1345	— 53	(Reaconsfield).....	1805 — 1881 — 93
Buxton.....	1822	— 1871	— 104	Divine, A. 17th Century	— 63

<i>Born. Died. Page</i>			<i>Born. Died. Page</i>		
Dobson.....	Living	— 111	Montagu, Lady.....	1690 — 1762	— 65
Dodd.....	1729 — 1777	— 87	Montaigne.....	1587 — 1592	— 55
Dyer.....	1755 — 1844	— 69	Montesquieu.....	1689 — 1755	— 65
Emerson.....	1803 — 1882	— 88	Moore.....	1730 — 1802	— 67
Eraasmus.....	1467 — 1536	— 54	Osborne.....	— 1659	— 60
Fénelon.....	—	— 114	Palmer.....	1805 — 1881	— 92
Fielding.....	1707 — 1754	— 86	Parker.....	1810 — 1800	— 94
Freeland.....	Living	— 110	Paul, St.....	— 65	— 58
Friarwell.....	1827 — 1878	— 106	Peacham.....	— 1640	— 57
Fuller.....	1608 — 1661	— 59	Peacock.....	1785 — 1896	— 77
Gibbon.....	1737 — 1794	— 67	Persian Saying.....	—	— 53
Giffillan.....	1813 — 1878	— 98	Petrarch.....	1304 — 1374	— 58
Godwin.....	1756 — 1836	— 69	Phillips.....	— 1816	— 97
Goethe.....	1749 — 1832	— 68	Plutarch.....	A. B. 46 —	— 62
Goldsmith.....	1728 — 1774	— 66	Porter.....	—	— 113
Green.....	1696 — 1787	— 65	Pope.....	1688 — 1744	— 65
Hale.....	1609 — 1679	— 69	Quintilian.....	A. D. 43 — 115	— 59
Hall.....	1574 — 1656	— 57	Rhodiginus.....	1584 — 1669	— 68
Hamerton.....	1834 —	— 109	Richardson.....	Living	— 112
Hare.....	1795 — 1865	— 79	Richter.....	1768 — 1825	— 70
Harrison.....	1831 —	— 108	Ringelbergius.....	— 1585	— 54
Hazlitt.....	1778 — 1830	— 73	Rioja.....	1600 — 1659	— 59
Helps.....	1817 — 1875	— 98	Robertson.....	1818 — 1853	— 96
Herschel.....	1792 — 1871	— 79	Rocheffoucauld.....	1618 — 1680	— 61
Hillard.....	1808 —	— 98	Ruskin.....	1819 — 1900	— 99
Hindu Saying.....	—	— 53	Saxe.....	— 1816	— 98
Holmes.....	1800 — 1894	— 94	Schopenhauer.....	1788 — 1850	— 76
Hume.....	1712 — 1776	— 66	Seneca, n. c. A. D.....	28 —	— 52
Hunt.....	1784 — 1859	— 78	Shakespeare.....	1564 — 1616	— 56
Irving.....	1783 — 1859	— 76	Sherbrooke.....	— 1811	— 65
Johnson.....	1709 — 1784	— 66	Shirley.....	1594 — 1666	— 59
Kingsley.....	1819 — 1875	— 99	Smith.....	1830 — 1867	— 107
Lamb.....	1775 — 1834	— 72	Socrates.....	n. c. 468 — 399	— 52
Landor.....	1775 — 1864	— 72	Song, Old English.....	—	— 56
Lang.....	1844 —	— 111	Sorbière.....	1610 — 1670	— 60
Langford.....	1826 —	— 103	South.....	1633 — 1714	— 62
Lipsius.....	1547 — 1606	— 55	Temple.....	1628 — 1688	— 62
Locke.....	—	— 113	Trollope.....	1815 — 1882	— 97
Lowell.....	1819 —	— 102	Waller.....	1697 — 1668	— 59
Lylze.....	1663 — 1801	— 55	Waterston, Mrs. (an American Writer). Living	— 114	
Lytton, Lord (E. L. Bulwer).....	1808 — 1873	— 86	Whately.....	1787 — 1838	— 73
Lytton, Earl (Owen Meredith).....	1881 — 1891	— 108	Whichcote.....	1610 — 1688	— 60
Machiavelli.....	1469 — 1527	— 55	Whitman.....	1819 — 1892	— 102
Mawrice.....	1805 — 1872	— 92	Wordsworth.....	1770 — 1850	— 71
McCosh.....	—	— 113	Writer, 18th Century.....	—	— 56
Ménage.....	1613 — 1692	— 60	Wytttenbach.....	1746 — 1820	— 67
Milton.....	1608 — 1674	— 59	Yriarte.....	1750 — 1791	— 68

INTRODUCTION.

No people in the world are more ambitious than Americans, yet how many of us do not realize that the surest way to true success is to look beyond our own little world and broaden our lives by judicious reading. The right kind of reading furnishes a liberal and practical education and confers inestimable advantages upon the reader. Even if one reads simply for entertainment, the greatest amount of pleasure may be derived from the world's famous books rather than from inferior books.

"Readers are not aware of the fact," writes Carlyle, "but a fact it is of daily increasing magnitude, and already of terrible importance to readers, that their first grand necessity in reading is to be vigilantly, conscientiously select." Ruskin divides all books into two classes, "the books of the hour and the books of all time," and the great question as Frederick Harrison puts it is this: "What are the books that in our little remnant of reading time it is most vital for us to know?" The answer is in Ralph Waldo Emerson's concise, authoritative essay on "Books," which we have the pleasure to reprint in full as it originally appeared in "The Atlantic Monthly." The advice on reading by Sir John Lubbock, one of the greatest literary authorities in the world, is also included.

It is thought eminently fitting to add the sentiments of other great authors "In Praise of Books," because

many of these were inspired by the same famous books which Emerson and Lubbock recommend. The purpose of this little book is to stimulate book-lovers and provide a guide to the best literature. Blank pages are added at the end for recording book comment, etc.

THE PUBLISHERS.