

**SIR WALTER
RALEGH: A DRAMA
IN FIVE ACTS**

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Sir Walter Raleigh: A Drama in Five Acts by H. A. A. Cruso

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H. A. A. CRUSO

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SIR WALTER RALEGH

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SIR WALTER RALEGH

BY

MARTIN HUME

Author of
"The Courtship of Queen Elizabeth," etc.

LONDON: T. FISHER UNWIN

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WALTER RALEGH

A DRAMA IN FIVE ACTS

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H. A. A. CRUSO

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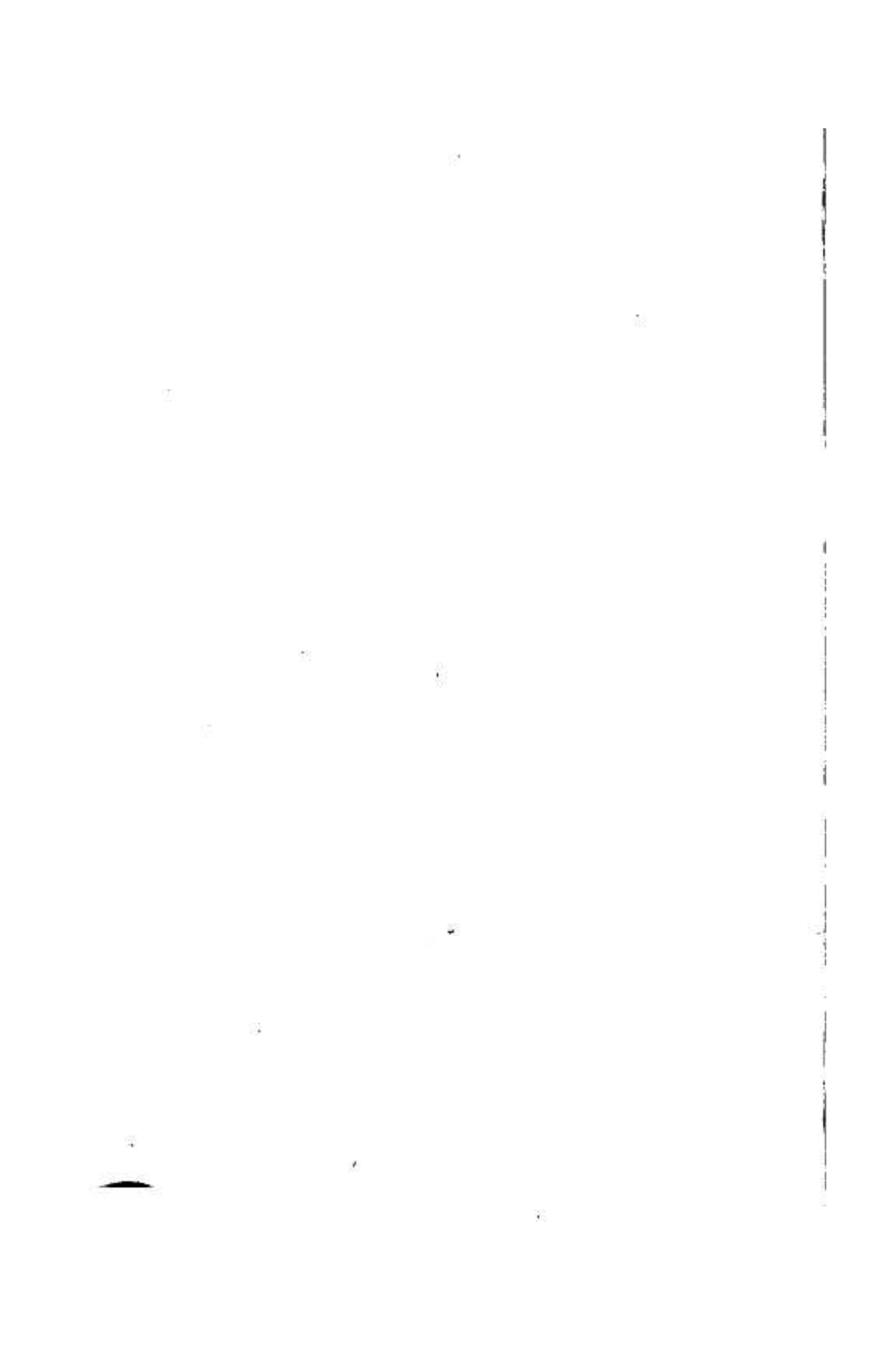
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IN MEMORIAM

F. M. O. C.

163310



INTRODUCTION

THE period covered by this play is the last two years of Raleigh's life—roughly from January 1617 to January 1619 (he was executed in October 1618). It follows the main course of history closely, and the only points (so far as I am aware) in which there is any conscious alteration of dates, are the release of Cobham—which took place a month or so later—and the death of Cobham, which I have adjusted by a few days to coincide with the arrest of Stucley for coin-clipping. The Privy Council Register for 1617 contains no record of any Council Meeting on the subject of the Spanish Marriage or of Raleigh, but that discussions on the subject were frequent we know from Gardiner and Spedding. These two historians are naturally my chief sources for the period, but I have followed Major Hume in his most interesting transcription from Spanish sources of the interview between Gondomar and James in 1618.

The closing years of Raleigh's life have a deep dramatic and historical significance. His previous career had the breadth and the sweep of epic. This Ulysses of his days