

**MODERN ENGLISH  
BOOKS OF POWER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649208470

Modern English books of power by George Hamlin Fitch

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**GEORGE HAMLIN FITCH**

**MODERN ENGLISH  
BOOKS OF POWER**





CHARLES DICKENS  
 READING "THE  
 CHIMES" AT  
 58 LINCOLN'S INN  
 FIELDS ON THE  
 SECOND OF DECEM-  
 BER, 1844.  
 FROM A SKETCH BY  
 DANIEL MACLISE,  
 R. A.

# MODERN ENGLISH BOOKS OF POWER

BY GEORGE HAMLIN FITCH

"A GOOD BOOK IS THE PRECIOUS  
LIFE-BLOOD OF A MASTER SPIRIT, EMBALMED AND TREASURED  
UP ON PURPOSE TO A LIFE BEYOND LIFE."  
MILTON: AREOPAGITICA



ILLUSTRATED

BARSE & HOPKINS  
NEW YORK      NEWARK  
N. Y.                      N. J.

Copyright, 1911  
by BARRÉ & HOPKINS

The articles in this  
book appeared originally in the  
Sunday book-page of the San Francisco *Chronicle*.  
The privilege of reproducing them  
here is due to the courtesy of  
M. H. de Young, Esq.

TO AMERIQUE  
WHOSE  
LOVE AND ENCOURAGEMENT  
HELPED ME TO WRITE  
THIS BOOK





## CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	ix
THE VITAL QUALITY IN LITERATURE . . . . .	xi
To Get the Spiritual Essence of a Great Book One Must Study the Man Who Wrote It—The Man Is the Best Epitome of His Message.	
MACAULAY'S ESSAYS IN EUROPEAN HISTORY . . . . .	3
Foremost English Essayist—His Style and Learning Have Made Macaulay a Favorite for Over a Half Century.	
SCOTT AND HIS WAVERLEY NOVELS . . . . .	11
Greatest Novelist the World Has Known—Made History Real and Created Characters That Will Never Die.	
CARLYLE AS AN INSPIRER OF YOUTH . . . . .	20
Finest English Prose Writer—His Best Books, <i>Past and Present</i> , <i>Sartor Resartus</i> and the <i>French Revolution</i> .	
DE QUINCEY AS A MASTER OF STYLE . . . . .	30
He Wrote the <i>Confessions of an English Opium-Eater</i> —Dreamed Dreams and Saw Visions and Pictured Them in Poetic Prose.	
CHARLES LAMB AND THE ESSAYS OF ELIA . . . . .	38
Best Beloved of All the English Writers—Quaintest and Tenderest Essayist Whose Work Appeals to All Hearts.	
DICKENS, THE FOREMOST OF NOVELISTS . . . . .	47
More Widely Read Than Any Other Story-Teller—The Greatest of the Modern Humorists Appeals to the Readers of All Ages and Classes.	
THACKERAY, GREATEST MASTER OF FICTION . . . . .	56
The Most Accomplished Writer of His Century—Tender Pathos Under an Affectation of Cynicism and Great Art in Style and Characters.	

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
CHARLOTTE BRONTË; HER TWO GREAT NOVELS . . . . .	66
<i>Jane Eyre</i> and <i>Villette</i> are Touched With Genius—The Tragedy of a Woman's Life That Resulted in Two Stories of Passionate Revolt Against Fate.	
GEORGE ELIOT AND HER TWO GREAT NOVELS . . . . .	76
<i>Adam Bede</i> and <i>The Mill on the Floss</i> —Her Early Stories Are Rich in Character Sketches, With Much Humor and Pathos.	
RUSKIN, THE APOSTLE OF ART . . . . .	87
Art Critic and Social Reformer—Best Books Are <i>Modern Painters</i> , <i>The Seven Lamps</i> and <i>The Stones of Venice</i> .	
TENNYSON LEADS THE VICTORIAN WRITERS . . . . .	96
A Poet Who Voiced the Aspirations of His Age— <i>Locksley Hall</i> , <i>In Memoriam</i> and <i>The Idylls of the King</i> Among His Best Works.	
BROWNING, GREATEST POET SINCE SHAKESPEARE . . . . .	106
How to Get the Best of Browning's Poems—Read the Lyrics First and Then Take Up the Longer and the More Difficult Works.	
MEREDITH AND A FEW OF HIS BEST NOVELS . . . . .	115
One of the Greatest Masters of Fiction of the Last Century— <i>The Ordeal of Richard Feverel</i> , <i>Diana of the Crossways</i> and Other Novels.	
STEVENSON, PRINCE OF MODERN STORY-TELLERS . . . . .	123
His Stories of Adventure and Brilliant Essays— <i>Treasure Island</i> and <i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> His Most Popular Books.	
THOMAS HARDY; HIS TRAGIC TALES OF WESSEX . . . . .	131
Greatest Living Writer of English Fiction—Resenting Harsh Criticisms, the Prose Master Turns to Verse.	
KIPLING'S BEST SHORT STORIES AND POEMS . . . . .	140
Tales of East Indian Life and Character—Ideal Training of the Genius That Has Produced Some of the Best Literary Work of Our Day.	
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	151
Short Notes of Both Standard and Other Editions, With Lives, Sketches and Reminiscences.	
INDEX . . . . .	165