

ESSAYS AND CRITICISMS

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Essays and Criticisms by Robert Louis Stevenson

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ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

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ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON
From a photograph taken at Honolulu

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AND CRITICISMS

BY
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



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EDITORIAL NOTE

IN *Essays and Criticisms* the publishers present for the first time this collection of Stevenson's writings. Some of them have heretofore appeared in the *Edinburgh and Thistle* (subscription) editions, but others do not appear in these editions and are here collected for the first time.

All of them have heretofore appeared in some periodical, due credit for which is given on page viii. In addition the publishers wish to acknowledge the courtesy of Mr. John Lane, who gave them permission to here reproduce the article entitled *A Mountain Town in France*.

In many of these essays Stevenson is found at his best, and the reader seems to be in closer contact with the author than in many of his more finished but less intimate writings. His walking tours are of especial interest at this time when walking and outdoor sports are so much in vogue.

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The essay entitled The Morality of the Profession of Letters is in reality his creed; a noble creed it is and few preachers have more conscientiously observed the rules laid down for the regulation of their lives than has Stevenson, in all his writings, observed the rules that follow:

“ There are two duties incumbent on any man who enters on the business of writing: truth to fact and a good spirit in treatment. . . . Everything but prejudice should find a voice through him; he should see the good in all things; where he has even a fear that he does not wholly understand, there should he be wholly silent: and he should recognize from the first that he has only one tool in his workshop, and that tool is sympathy.”



ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

*"Child of delight and heir of loveliness,
Great friend, whose followers would fain be true."*

Richard Burton