

WILTSHIRE ESSAYS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649291502

Wiltshire essays by Maurice Hewlett

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MAURICE HEWLETT

**WILTSHIRE
ESSAYS**

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ESSAYS BY THE SAME WRITER

'IN A GREEN SHADE'

WILTSHIRE ESSAYS

BY

MAURICE HEWLETT

HUMPHREY MILFORD
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
LONDON EDINBURGH GLASGOW COPENHAGEN
NEW YORK TORONTO MELBOURNE CAPE TOWN
BOMBAY CALCUTTA MADRAS SHANGHAI PEKING

1921

PRINTED IN ENGLAND
AT THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
BY FREDERICK HALL

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P R E F A C E

On Oneself

I AM not able to conceive of anything, at first sight, more uninteresting than discourse upon such a subject, but if it can be done anywhere, where so well as in an essay; for what are essays but oneself written at length, oneself draped about some fortuitous peg? Where, then, better than in the preface to a volume of them? On the threshold of oneself what can more usefully engage the visitor than initiatory disquisition? A grace before self; for what one is about to receive! Moreover, as it so happens that in the course of the last thirty years I have done a variety of things and received upon them every variety of comment, except my own, it may be that the time has come for my contribution to be put in. I can raise some curious points; and a reviewer in the *New Statesman* of the other day (15th January, 1921) gives me the opportunity. Upon his peg then will I hang my egotistical drapery, and over those whom he designates will I cast my shoe.

In a review, extremely *simpatica*, and, as I please to believe, discerning, of a recent little book of mine, predecessor of these presents, heading straight for his principal affair, he