

**COURAGE IN
POLITICS, AND OTHER
ESSAYS, 1885-1896**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649229550

Courage in politics, and other essays, 1885-1896 by Coventry Patmore

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

COVENTRY PATMORE

**COURAGE IN
POLITICS, AND OTHER
ESSAYS, 1885-1896**

COURAGE IN POLITICS

AND OTHER ESSAYS

1885-1896

BY

COVENTRY PATMORE

Now first collected

HUMPHREY MILFORD

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

LONDON EDINBURGH GLASGOW COPENHAGEN

NEW YORK TORONTO MELBOURNE CAPE TOWN

BOMBAY CALCUTTA MADRAS SHANGHAI PEKING

1921

PR 5142
C68

PRINTED IN ENGLAND
AT THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
BY FREDERICK HALL

PREFACE

'WE need books of this tart cathartic virtue,' said Emerson, of Plutarch, and it is because some of us believe this requirement to be eminently fulfilled in Coventry Patmore's prose that this further selection from it has been made.¹

Every reader will confess its tart flavour: its cathartic virtue depends upon his own good will: he must minister to himself if he can reject the temptation to throw the physic to the dogs.

Patmore's criticism, literary, artistic, and political, was based upon considered principles, and it is in his statement of these, more than in his application of them, that the virtue of his criticism consists. He deprecated the merely subjective appreciation of books, and it is to mark the fact that the many essays on other writers included here are not of that order that a small group of political articles is placed in the forefront; for in these it is the statement of principles only that can win any acceptance: the illustrations are from the vanished part of thirty-five years ago.

In the literary articles the principles he enunciates are those by which he would wish his own poetry to

¹ Patmore's own selection from his prose-contributions to periodical literature may be found in the two little books, *Principle in Art*, &c. (1889) and *Religio Poetarum*, &c. (1893.)

SEP 15 '93
810010
Patmore

be judged. His choice among poets and novelists is a statement of his own position. When he praises the versification of Goldsmith, the diction of Mr. Bridges, the peace of William Barnes, the manners of Mrs. Walford, he is defending the technique of *The Angel in the House*, and its story. And into Mr. Bridges' and Thomas Woolner's treatment of the classic myths he reads something of the mysticism of *The Unknown Eros*. That he should have maintained the infinite superiority of Shakespeare to Jane Austen, and the general superiority of Scott to Thackeray and Trollope, was but to hold the balance level.

The book is a book of doctrine, and is 'original' only in that it goes back to origins: the doctrines are those of Aristotle, of Goethe, of Coleridge, indeed as one can imagine Patmore saying, 'of all sensible men'. The style only that holds them together is his own.

One need not exaggerate the tartness of the flavour: it existed in Coventry Patmore, and in his writings, only as the safeguard of an inner core of sweetness, and in the ensuing essays there is not infrequent fun and at least one of his rare instances of tenderness.

These newspaper articles contain a few repetitions and things of merely temporary interest which the author doubtless would have removed had he finally prepared them for reprinting. There are other things in them which would never have been

there at all had he been infallible and impeccable. Their presence adds the ingratiating humour and pathos of human fallibility.

Mrs. Patmore has kindly permitted this reprint of copyright material. For its selection and arrangement the responsibility must rest with me, although I have not omitted to consult with Mr. Basil Champneys, the friend and biographer of Coventry Patmore.

By the kindness of Mr. Everard Meynell I have been able to use Patmore's own copies of these articles as the basis of this reprint, and the omissions indicated in a few of them correspond with his own deletions.

I have also to thank the editors of *The Fortnightly Review* and the *Saturday Review* for confirming Mrs. Patmore's permission with respect to certain articles.

A bibliography of Coventry Patmore's prose-writings, for the most part anonymous and unreprinted, is given at the end of the volume for those who may have the wish and opportunity to explore further.

F. PAGE.



CONTENTS

[The essays marked with an asterisk are—in Patmore's own collection of his newspaper articles—marked for an intended reprint, an intention now for the first time effected.]

	PAGE
*' MANIFEST DESTINY '	9
COURAGE IN POLITICS	11
*MINDING ONE'S OWN BUSINESS	17
*CALLING A SPADE A SPADE	20
*HOW IS IT TO END ?	24
*PROVERBS AND BON-MOTS	28
OUT-OF-DOOR POETRY	32
DECEMBER IN GARDEN AND FIELD	37
*OLD COACH ROADS	40
A SAFE CHARITY	46
JOHN MARSTON	51
SIR THOMAS BROWNE	54
*GOLDSMITH	59
COMPARING SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT GREAT TALKERS	65
I. Coleridge	70
II. Goethe	74
III. Luther	79
COLERIDGE	84
MEMORIALS OF COLEORTON	92
*DREAMS	97
*SWEDENBORG	101
HEGEL	105
THE MORALITY OF ' EPIPSYCHIDION '	110
POETICAL COUPS-MANQUÉS	114