

**THE RIVERSIDE LITERATURE  
SERIES; THE ESSAYS OF  
FRANCIS BACON; EDITED WITH  
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES**

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**CLARK SUTHERLAND NORTHUP**

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SERIES; THE ESSAYS OF  
FRANCIS BACON; EDITED WITH  
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES**





THE RIGHTE HONOURABLE  
**S: Francis Bacon, knight.**  
LORDE HIGHE CHANCELLOVR OF ENGLANDE,  
and one of his Ma<sup>ties</sup> most hon<sup>ble</sup> privie counsell.

*The Riverside Literature Series*

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THE ESSAYS  
OF FRANCIS BACON

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION  
AND NOTES

BY

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## PREFACE

THE text of this edition of Bacon's Essays is based on that of Spedding, carefully collated with Arber's, and constantly compared with the texts of Wright and Reynolds. The spelling and capitalization have been more thoroughly modernized than in most other texts, though some familiar archaic spellings have been kept; and the punctuation has been somewhat simplified. In the majority of instances I have retained Spedding's virile translations of the quotations from foreign languages. In writing on the vexed question of Bacon's character, I have been much indebted, as every careful student of Bacon will always be, to the epoch-making researches of Spedding, who, while unconsciously minimizing, perhaps, the significance of some unpleasant facts, has given us on the whole the justest narrative of Bacon's life that we have. In the notes, while assuming that the student will have access to a good unabridged dictionary, I have nevertheless kept in mind the fact that for many large classes there are not reference books enough to go around, and hence students must rely largely upon the notes for explanations of all kinds of difficulties. My constant indebtedness to the commentators mentioned above, as well as to Dr. Abbott, will be evident, and I acknowledge it with gratitude. I must also record my obligation to my colleague, Professor William Strunk, Jr., for the use of notes generously proffered, and to the authorities of the Harvard University Library for the loan of Holland's Plutarch.

C. S. N.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, N. Y.,  
October, 1907.





THE  
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OF  
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And are to be sold at the signe of the King's Head, in  
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