

**EVENINGS IN THE
LIBRARY: BITS OF GOSSIP
ABOUT BOOKS AND
THOSE WHO WRITE THEM**

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Evenings in the Library: Bits of Gossip About Books and Those Who Write Them by George Stewart

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GEORGE STEWART

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EVENINGS IN THE LIBRARY:

BITS OF GOSSIP ABOUT BOOKS

AND

AND

THOSE WHO WRITE THEM.

BY

GEORGE STEWART, JR.,

AUTHOR OF THE STORY OF THE GREAT FIRE IN ST. JOHN, N.B.



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TO

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,

"THE AUTOCRAT OF THE BREAKFAST-TABLE,"

I DEDICATE THIS VOLUME,

The Author,



PREFACE

THESE sketches were prepared at intervals in my leisure for *Belford's Magazine*. I had an idea that in the form in which they are cast, I could say some things which could not be said in any other way. Lest some might mistake my meaning, I will explain the object I had in view at the time I sent the first paper of the series to the printers. The old Professor, the reader will observe, is not always a mere talker, but must be considered in the light of a lecturer. The younger men are his foils. Occasionally they take part in the conversations, but only in a way that serves to assist the older man in giving utterance to his thoughts about the authors and works which come under review. The papers are largely suggestive, and though made up of talks, there is little actual discussion in them. I have preferred to say just what I thought of living authors and their works, and while

often critical, the sketches are for the most part personal. In my choice of subjects, I have selected such of the great names in literature as please me the best, and this may account for the appreciative character, I may say warmth, of my estimates of their genius. It was not my intention to make a book of these papers at first, but my publishers willing it otherwise, I yield to their desires. If anything I have said will cause the reader to turn to the pages of the great geniuses who have enlightened an age, and read the delightful poems, sketches and stories which they have given us, I shall feel more than satisfied with the work I have done.

THE AUTHOR,

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