

**GEORG BRANDES IN  
LIFE AND LETTERS,  
PP. 1-151**

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Georg Brandes in Life and Letters, pp. 1-151 by Julius Moritzen & Robert H. Fife

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**JULIUS MORITZEN & ROBERT H. FIFE**

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GEORG BRANDES

# GEORG BRANDES IN LIFE AND LETTERS

BY  
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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY  
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**To the memory of my wife,  
this book is lovingly dedicated.**

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## INTRODUCTION

SOME years ago, Georg Brandes declared of himself: "I am not a philosopher; for that I am too small. I am not a critic; for that I am too big."

It is certain that to call the great Danish writer merely a critic would be to limit too narrowly the position which he holds in the culture of Europe. To give an accurate definition of Brandes we should have to invent a new word; but it is not probable that we should need the word again, as it is not likely that the world will ever have another Brandes.

We associate the critic with literature, but Georg Brandes is bigger than literature. We expect the critic to sweep away the old and outworn and to adjust us to the new and practical. That has been Brandes' work, but only a part of it. We demand of the critic that he shall interpret for us what is real and lasting in works of art, thus revealing to the passing age the invisible spirit of itself and anticipating the verdict of posterity on the poet and artist of to-day.

All that Brandes has done, but something