

**THE MAKING OF A
NOVELIST, AN
EXPERIMENT IN
AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649289639

The making of a novelist, an experiment in autobiography by David Christie Murray

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

DAVID CHRISTIE MURRAY

**THE MAKING OF A
NOVELIST, AN
EXPERIMENT IN
AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

THE
—
MAKING OF A NOVELIST

AN EXPERIMENT IN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

BY

DAVID CHRISTIE MURRAY

ESQ.



London

CHATTO & WINDUS, PICCADILLY

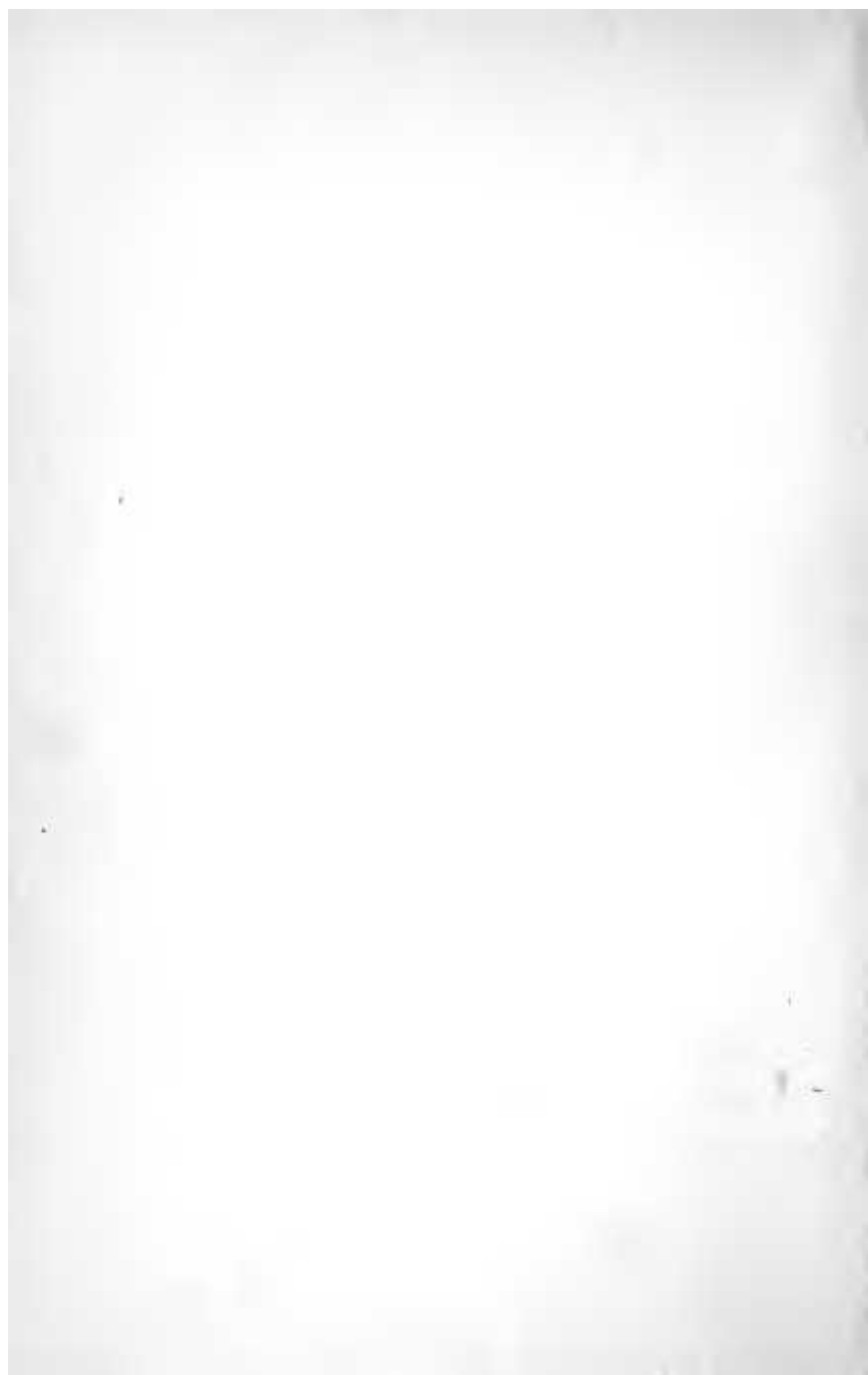
1894

PR5101

M45-25

1-31-89 Mr. Barrie & Co. 1000

TO
J. M. BARRIE



P R E F A C E

EVERY man who writes about himself is, on the face of the matter, obnoxious to the suspicion which haunts the daily pathway of the Bore. To talk of self and not be offensive demands an art which is not always given to man. And yet we are always longing to get near each other and to understand each other; and in default of a closer communion with our living fellows we take to our bosoms the shadows of fiction and the stage. If the real man could be presented to us by any writer of his own history we should all hail him with enthusiasm.

Pepys, of course, came nearer than anybody else ; but this is only because he wrote for his own reading and meant to keep himself a secret. Dickens exquisitely veils and unveils his own personality and career in *Copperfield*, and scores of smaller writers have done the same thing in fiction to our great pleasure. But to set down boldly, openly, and as a fact for general publication the things of one's own doing, saying, and thinking is an impertinence whose only justification can be found in the public approval. If Pepys had written his Diary for publication he would have been left to oblivion as a driveller. But we surprise the man's secret, we see what he never meant to show us, the peering jackdaw instinct is satisfied ; and we feel, besides, a certain sense of humorous pity and affectionate disdain which the man himself, had we known him in life as we know

him in his book, could never have excited. Rousseau, to me, is flatly intolerable, because he meant to tell the world what every man should have the decency to hide.

The perfect autobiography is yet to seek, and will probably never be written. A partial solution of a difficulty is offered in this experimental booklet. It is offered without diffidence, because it is offered in perfect modesty. I have tried to show how one particular novelist was made ; where he got some of his experiences, and in what varying fashions the World and Fate have tried to teach him his business. It has been my effort to do this in the least egotistical and the most straightforward fashion. The narrative is quite informal and wanders where it will ; but in its serial publication it received marked favour from an indulgent public, and I like to give it an equal chance of permanence with