

**THE WORKS OF LORD MORLEY
IN FIFTEEN VOLUMES,
VOLUME XV; ORACLES ON
MAN & GOVERNMENT**

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The Works of Lord Morley in fifteen Volumes, Volume XV; Oracles on Man & Government by
John Viscount Morley

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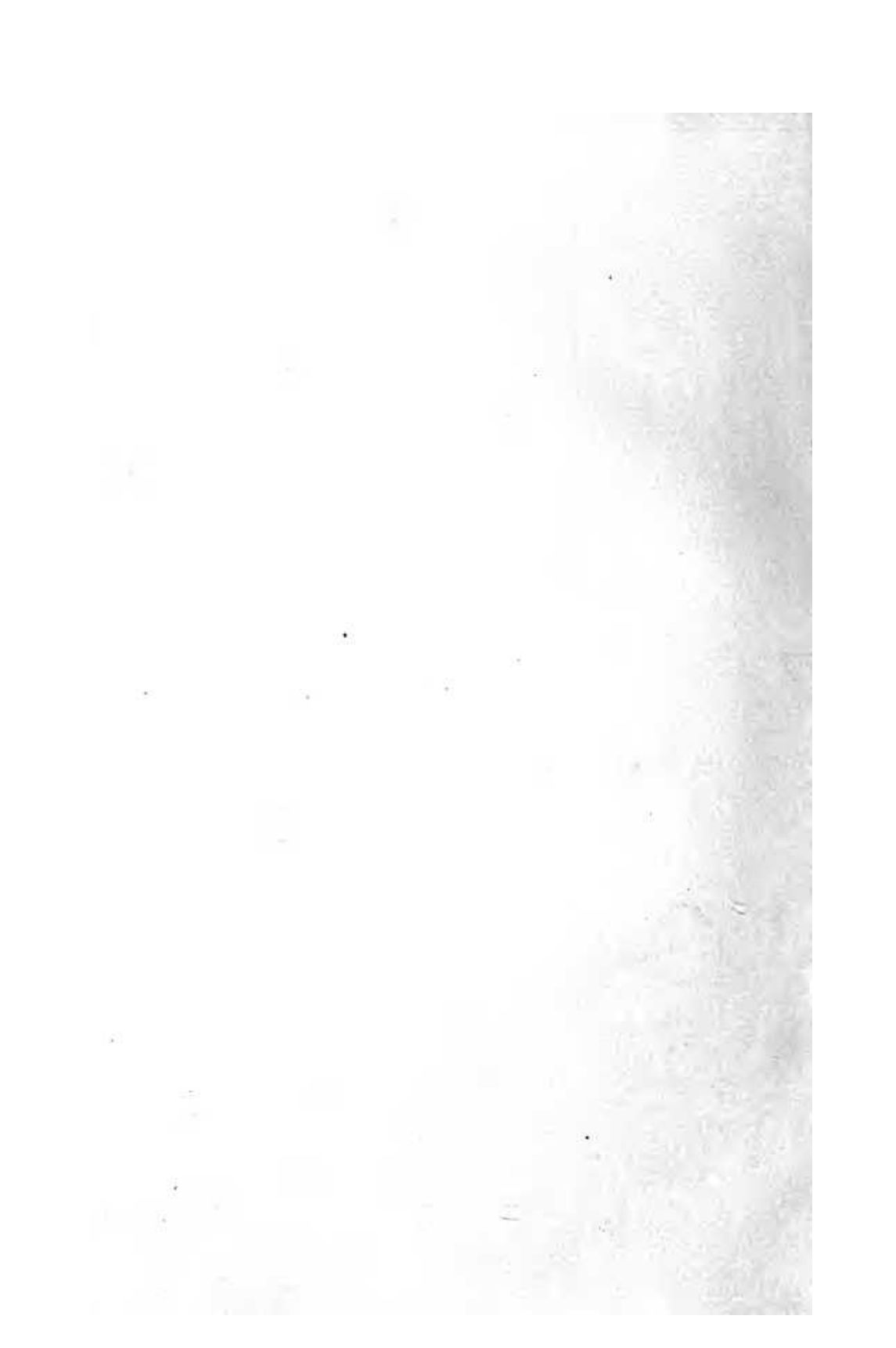
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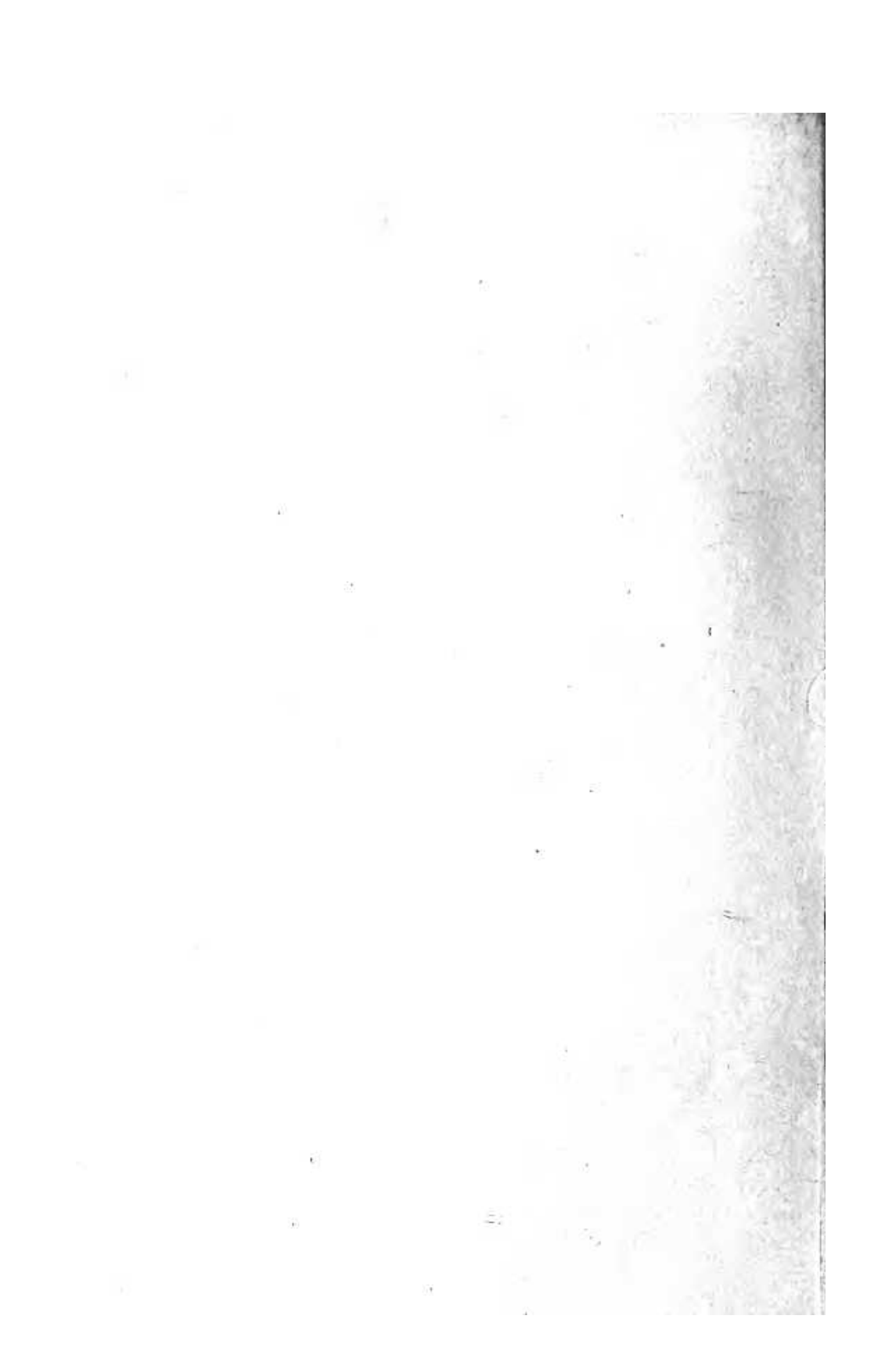
JOHN VISCOUNT MORLEY

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Edition de Luxe

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ORACLES
ON
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BY
JOHN VISCOUNT MORLEY
O.M.

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1921

CONTENTS

	PAGE
A GREAT TEACHER	I
TWO ESSAYS ON DEMOCRACY EXAMINED :	
(I.) LECKY ON DEMOCRACY	23
(II.) MAINE ON POPULAR GOVERNMENT	59
LIBERALISM AND REACTION	91
APHORISMS	121
VAUVENARGUES	147
A FEW WORDS ON FRENCH MODELS	177
AUGUSTE COMTE	197

A GREAT TEACHER¹

It was no bad usage of the old Romans to bring down from its niche the waxen image of an eminent ancestor on the anniversary of his natal day, and to recall his memory and its lineaments, even though time with all its wear and tear should have sprinkled a little dust or chipped a feature. Nor was the Alexandrian sage unwise who deemed himself unworthy of a birthday feast, and kept its very date strictly secret, yet sacrificed to the gods and entertained his friends on the birthdays of Socrates and Plato. Nobody would have been more severely displeased than Mill at an attempt to exalt him to a level in the empyrean with those two immortal shades; yet he was of the Socratic household. He was the first guide and inspirer of a generation that has now all but passed away; and it may perhaps be counted among the *sollemnia pietatis*, the feasts and offices of grateful recollection, in an Easter holiday from more clamorous things, to muse for a day upon the teacher who was born on the twentieth of May a hundred years ago.

Mill was once called by Mr. Gladstone the saint of rationalism, and the designation was a happy one. The canonisation of a saint in the Roman communion is preceded by the dozen or more preliminary steps of beatification; and the books tell

¹ Born May 20, 1806; died May 8, 1873. This *causerie* appeared in the *Times*, May 18, 1906. One or two pieces are included from my review of the *Autobiography*.