

**ESSAYS. COLLECTED  
AND ARRANGED BY  
SIR GEORGE YOUNG**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649128761

Essays. Collected and arranged by Sir George Young by Winthrop Mackworth Praed

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WINTHROP MACKWORTH PRAED**

**ESSAYS. COLLECTED  
AND ARRANGED BY  
SIR GEORGE YOUNG**



ESAYS

BY

WINTHROP MACKWORTH PRAED

COLLECTED AND ARRANGED BY

SIR GEORGE YOUNG, BART., M.A.

*WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY HENRY MORLEY*

LL.D., PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE AT  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON

LONDON

GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS

BROADWAY, LUDGATE HILL

GLASGOW AND NEW YORK

1887

13271 PR  
5189  
P7A16  
1887

**MORLEY'S UNIVERSAL LIBRARY.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. <i>Sheridan's Plays.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Plays from Molière.</i> By English Dramatists.</p> <p>3. <i>Marlowe's Faustus</i> and <i>Goethe's Faust.</i></p> <p>4. <i>Chronicle of the Cid.</i></p> <p>5. <i>Rabelais' Gargantua and the Heroic Deeds of Pantagruel.</i></p> <p>6. <i>Machiavelli's Prince.</i></p> <p>7. <i>Bacon's Essays.</i></p> <p>8. <i>Defoe's Journal of the Plague Year.</i></p> <p>9. <i>Locke on Civil Government</i> and <i>Filmer's "Patriarcha."</i></p> <p>10. <i>Butler's Analogy of Religion.</i></p> <p>11. <i>Dryden's Virgil.</i></p> <p>12. <i>Scott's Demonology and Witchcraft.</i></p> <p>13. <i>Herrick's Hesperides.</i></p> <p>14. <i>Coleridge's Table-Talk.</i></p> <p>15. <i>Boccaccio's Decameron.</i></p> <p>16. <i>Sterne's Tristram Shandy.</i></p> <p>17. <i>Chapman's Homer's Iliad.</i></p> <p>18. <i>Medieval Tales.</i></p> <p>19. <i>Voltaire's Candide,</i> and <i>Johnson's Rasselas.</i></p> <p>20. <i>Johnson's Plays and Poems.</i></p> <p>21. <i>Hobbes's Leviathan.</i></p> <p>22. <i>Samuel Butler's Hudibras.</i></p> <p>23. <i>Ideal Commonwealths.</i></p> <p>24. <i>Cavendish's Life of Wolsey.</i></p> <p>25 &amp; 26. <i>Don Quixote.</i></p> <p>27. <i>Burlesque Plays and Poems.</i></p> <p>28. <i>Dante's Divine Comedy.</i> LONGFELLOW'S Translation.</p> <p>29. <i>Goldsmith's Vicar of Wakefield, Plays, and Poems.</i></p> | <p>30. <i>Fables and Proverbs from the Sanskrit. (Hitopadesa.)</i></p> <p>31. <i>Lamb's Essays of Elia.</i></p> <p>32. <i>The History of Thomas E. Wood.</i></p> <p>33. <i>Emerson's Essays, &amp;c.</i></p> <p>34. <i>Southey's Life of Nelson.</i></p> <p>35. <i>De Quincey's Confessions of an Opium-Eater, &amp;c.</i></p> <p>36. <i>Stories of Ireland.</i> By Miss EDGEWORTH.</p> <p>37. <i>Frere's Aristophanes: Acharnians, Knights, Birds.</i></p> <p>38. <i>Burke's Speeches and Letters.</i></p> <p>39. <i>Thomas à Kempis.</i></p> <p>40. <i>Popular Songs of Ireland.</i></p> <p>41. <i>Potter's Æschylus.</i></p> <p>42. <i>Goethe's Faust: Part II.</i> ANSTER'S Translation.</p> <p>43. <i>Famous Pamphlets.</i></p> <p>44. <i>Francklin's Sophocles.</i></p> <p>45. <i>M. G. Lewis's Tales of Terror and Wonder.</i></p> <p>46. <i>Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation.</i></p> <p>47. <i>Drayton's Barons' Wars, Nymphidia, &amp;c.</i></p> <p>48. <i>Cobbett's Advice to Young Men.</i></p> <p>49. <i>The Banquet of Dante.</i></p> <p>50. <i>Walker's Original.</i></p> <p>51. <i>Schiller's Poems and Ballads.</i></p> <p>52. <i>Peel's Plays and Poems.</i></p> <p>53. <i>Harrington's Oceana.</i></p> <p>54. <i>Euripides: Alcestis and other Plays.</i></p> <p>55. <i>Praed's Essays.</i></p> |
|---|---|

"Marvels of clear type and general neatness."—*Daily Telegraph.*

## INTRODUCTION.

---

THE readers of our Library are greatly indebted to Sir George Young for his kindness in presenting them with this first collected edition of the prose writings of his uncle, Winthrop Mackworth Praed. He little knows the charm of the bright regions of Literature who cannot yield himself to full enjoyment of their infinite variety. As we pass from book to book, it is a long leap from Euripides to the brilliant young Etonian who brought all the grace of happy youth into such work as we have here. Happy the old who can grow young again with this book in their hands. If we all came into the world mature, and there were no childhood and youth about us, what a dull world it would be! Any book is a prize that brings the fresh and cheerful voice of youth into the region of true Literature. Of Praed's work in this way none can speak better than Sir George Young in his Preface.

Of his life, these are a few dry facts. He was born in 1802, lost his mother early, and went to Eton at the age of

twelve. He was still at Eton when, at the age of eighteen, in 1820, he and his friend Walter Blount edited the *Etonian*, which began its course in October 1820 and ended in July 1821. In the following October Praed went to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he obtained a Fellowship. He obtained medals for Greek odes and epigrams, a medal for English verse, and he was still full of the old grace of playfulness. He was called to the Bar in 1829. An elder sister died in 1830, and his love for her is shown in tender touches of his later verse. The *vers de société* which he wrote, and which no man wrote better than Praed, retain their charm because their playfulness is on the surface of a manly earnest nature, from the depth of which a tone now and then rises that comes straight into our hearts. Praed was in Parliament from November 1830 until after the passing of the Reform Bill, and again in 1834, when he was Secretary to the Board of Control under Sir Robert Peel. His father died in 1835; in the same year Praed married; and in July 1839 he died, aged thirty-seven.

H. M.

October 1887.



## P R E F A C E.



THE prose pieces of Winthrop Mackworth Praed have never before been presented in a collected form. They are worthy of preservation, in a degree hardly less than his verse; though by the latter he has hitherto been best known, and will probably be longest remembered. At the time when the high quality of his literary work obtained for the *Etonian* the honour, unprecedented in the case of a school magazine, of a complimentary notice in the *Quarterly Review*, it was to the merit of his prose, as much as to that of his poetry, that attention was called by the reviewer. It is not, however, as the phenomenally precocious work of a schoolboy that these papers have been thought worthy of reproduction in the UNIVERSAL LIBRARY. The circumstance that they were, most of them, written at Eton, is only to be accounted of as adding to their interest, by giving the reader a point of view from which to sympathize with the writer's humour. It would, however, be a mistake to consider the senior Etonian of 1820 as corresponding to any reasonable description of what is generally denoted by the word "schoolboy." At

the age of eighteen or nineteen, when his grandfathers had already taken their first degrees, subjected to a discipline as light as that of a modern University, more free to study in the way the spirit moved him, or not to study at all, than the undergraduate of a "good" college now, the pupil of Goodall, Keate, or Plumptre was of a maturer sort than is now to be found among the denizens of Sixth Forms. He came between two ages in the history of our Public Schools, in neither of which could such literary work as here follows have been produced by a "schoolboy." There preceded him the age in which a youth went early to the University, and early into life. There has followed the day in which "boys" at school, when no longer boys, but men in years, are held fast by discipline to boyish studies, or at any rate to boyish amusements. The circumstance that a few individuals, of great and early matured literary gifts, were assembled together under these conditions at a single school, on two several occasions, in two successive generations, at an interval of about thirty years, operated to enrich English Literature with two graceful and unique volumes. Of the *Microcosm*, the best pieces are due to Canning and Frere; in the *Etonian*, the share of Præd surpasses and eclipses that of his contemporaries. From his University friends, indeed, he derived powerful help; there are a few lines of poetry, by William Sidney Walker, better than any of his own; and there are a few pages of prose, by Henry Nelson Coleridge, which are also better; but for sustained excellence, and for an energy and variety in production, truly extraordinary under the circumstances, Præd, and Præd only, is the hero of the *Etonian*; the over-

praised and ambitiously constructed efforts of his friend Moultrie not excepted.

After Praed left Eton, his bent led him to verse, rather than to prose, as his appropriate vehicle of expression; and it was only occasionally that he sent a prose contribution, either to *Knight's Quarterly Magazine*, or to the *London Magazine*, or to the ephemeral pages of the *Brazen Head*. Two speeches of his in Parliament were "reprinted by request;" but they seem to have owed this distinction rather to the special interest, at the time, of their subject-matter, than to any exceptional finish in their literary form. They were speeches in Committee on the Reform Bills of 1831 and 1832, the one on moving as an amendment what was afterwards known as the "three-cornered constituency" arrangement; the other on moving, similarly, that freeholds within the limits of boroughs should confer votes for the borough and not for the county. His partly versified squib, "The Union Club," in which he parodied the style and matter of the principal speakers among Cambridge undergraduates in 1822, has been included in this collection, for the sake especially of the comical imitations of Lord Macaulay and Lord Lytton. It was written, as Macaulay himself informed me, "for Cookesley to recite at supper-parties." The late Rev. William Gifford Cookesley, long an assistant master at Eton, who acted as Lord Beaconsfield's cicerone when he came down to the spot to make studies for "Coningsby," is gratefully remembered by many of his scholars for his genuine, if somewhat irregular, love of literature, and for his hearty sympathy with boyish good-fellowship. He was a contemporary of Praed's both at