A GROUP OF ENGLISH ESSAYISTS OF THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649597789

A Group of English Essayists of the Early Nineteenth Century by C. T. Winchester

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C. T. WINCHESTER

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OF THE

EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY

BY

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New York
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
1910

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Set up and electrotyped, Published January, 1910.

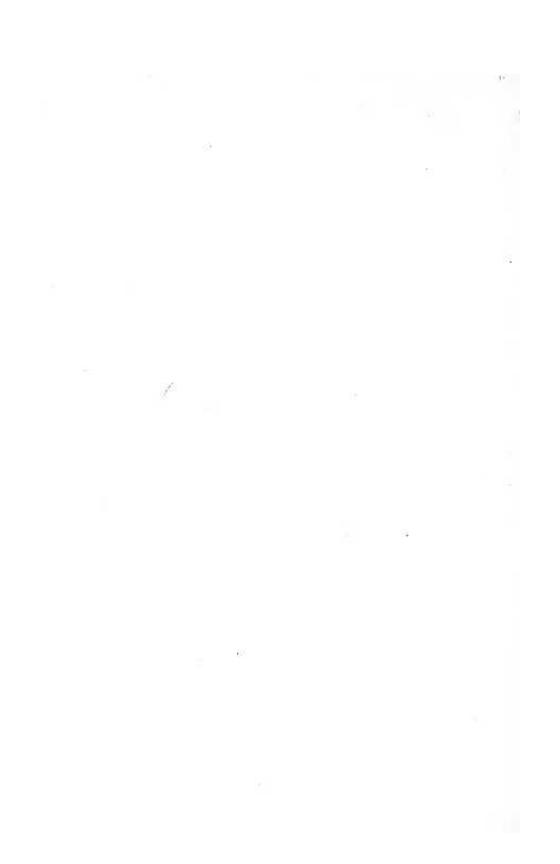


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To MY FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE OSCAR KUHNS

The following papers pretend to no discovery of new biographical fact, nor to any reversals of established critical verdict. They are, for the most part, the result of many pleasant hours in a college seminary room; and their interest, if any interest they have, is that attending the informal discussion of a group of familiar and delightful English prose-writers.

If a disproportionate attention seems given in these pages to biography rather than to criticism, it should be remembered that Hazlitt, Lamb, De Quincey, Wilson, and Hunt all found their themes within their own personal experience. Perhaps no other body of English prose, equally large and important, is so exclusively autobiographical. The biographical method of approach, always useful, is here the only one open to the critic. He must first know the man before he can estimate the book.



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