

**BREVIA, SHORT
ESSAYS AND
APHORISMS, PP. 2-208**

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Brevia, Short Essays and Aphorisms, pp. 2-208 by Sir Arthur Helps

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SIR ARTHUR HELPS

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BREVIA.



"They that know one another salute afar off."

JACULA PRUDENTUM.

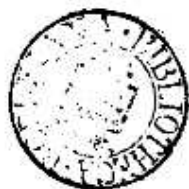
B R E V I A

SHORT ESSAYS AND APHORISMS

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"FRIENDS IN COUNCIL"

Adrian B. B. B.



LONDON

BELL AND DALDY YORK STREET

COVENT GARDEN

1871

270. f. 220

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TOOKS COURT, CHANCERY LANE.

TO
HIS DAUGHTER ALICE,
THIS WORK
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

of this kind. But with our present short period of existence, there is no time for indulging in these luxuries of mischief.



THERE is not greater nonsense talked about anything than about inconsistency. The truth is, no man ever is inconsistent. His utterances are inconsistent ; but, did we know all about him, and about the circumstances which he has to encounter, we should not speak of the man as inconsistent.

A curious illustration of what I mean may be given in this way.

There shall be a father and a son advocating opposite views. The world says, How unlike are these two men ; whereas the opposition of their views shows, perhaps, the similarity of their characters : if they agreed now, their ages and their experience of life being so different, it would be a proof of great dissimilarity of character.



WHEN the tourist goes over some old castle or palace, and his attention is arrested by horrible dungeons, torture-chambers,

and oubliettes, he wonders how, in former days, the inhabitants of that castle or palace could have slept comfortably, or revelled, or made love, having cognizance all the time of the horrors that were beneath them. But there is a similar thing everywhere—to wit, Belgravia and Bethnal Green. It is wonderful how completely people can ignore the existence of painful things that are very close to them.



PEOPLE occasionally contend that the sense of property is a thing that should be dulled rather than encouraged. But this is, in some respects, a mistake. If "Rich London" had a keen sense of property in "Poor London," there would be nothing which would have more effect in removing squalidity throughout the metropolis. Whereas, not only the sense of property, but even of neighbourhood, is greatly lost in this huge city.

The squire has a painful sense of property in some poor hovel that is on the outskirts of his estate, but which is his, and unpleasantly reminds him, as he rides by, of Mr. Drummond's saying, "that property has its duties as well as its rights."