JUNIUS LETTERS: THE AUTHOR-MYSTERY CLEARED

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Junius Letters: The Author-mystery Cleared by Vicarius

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VICARIUS

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THE

AUTHOR-MYSTERY CLEARED

VICARIUS

LONDON
ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW
1903

Br 2060.325

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PREFACE

JUNIUS tells us that "he is the sole depository of his own secret, and that it should perish with him," yet secrets have been revealed and hard things understood. The burial of this secret body took place in the eighteenth century, and is now raised again in the twentieth, and soon all men will hear of it. That Junius's real name should now be revealed by me is not marvellous, although the discovery may be reckoned

so. For a quarter of a century and more I have had this matter before my mind and have known who Junius was, and that he was a Peer. When reading in the "Union" at Oxford in the seventies, getting tired of "Stephen's Commentaries on Common Law," I took up "Junius's Letters," and regaled myself with a draught of this secret spring. Feeling so much refreshed I set out immediately on a voyage of discovery. And now, after much reading and investigating, and patiently waiting, I am fully confirmed in my views, and humbly present them to the public, at present rather in the

form of notes and propositions than in that of a large and finished work.

The political and literary worlds were equally concerned and greatly stirred up to try and discover who Junius was. Burke wanted to know how he came to be so great a puzzle-power. " How comes this Junius to have broken through the cobwebs of the Law, and to range uncontrolled, unpunished, through the land? The myrmidons of the Court have been long, and are still, pursuing him in vain. . . . But what do all their efforts avail? No sooner has he wounded one than he lays down another