

**A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF
UNFINISHED BOOKS IN
THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE,
WITH ANNOTATIONS**

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A bibliography of unfinished books in the English language, with annotations by Albert R. Corns & Archibald Sparke

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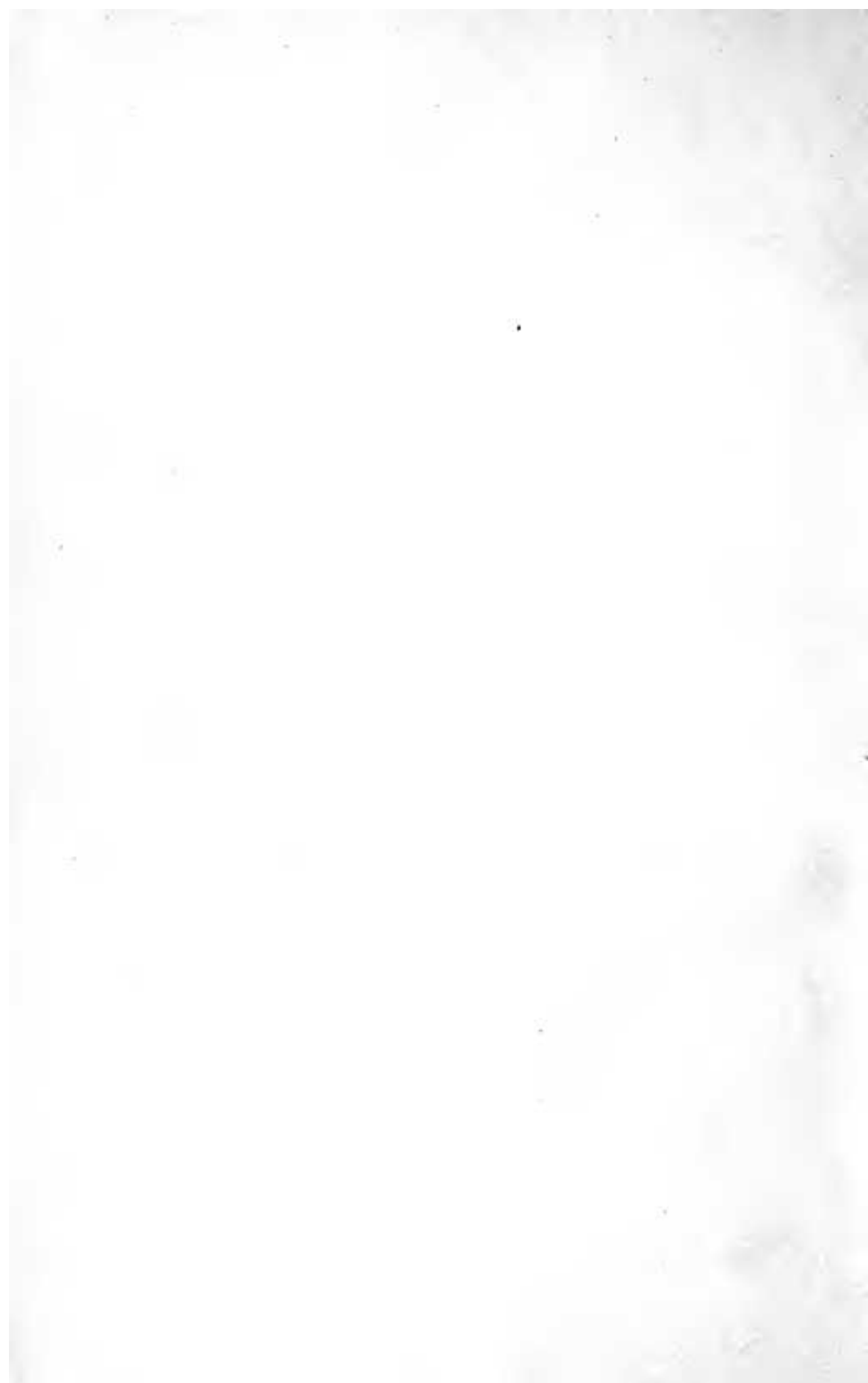
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ALBERT R. CORNS & ARCHIBALD SPARKE

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1914"; etc., etc.

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PREFACE



F the compilation of Bibliographies there seems no end, yet a century ago the word was an unfamiliar one in the English language. Up to fifty years ago we had examples which are entirely different from those of quite modern workmanship. These early Bibliographies dealt especially with periods of time rather than with subjects, as, for instance, Arber's "Term Catalogues," and Lowndes' "Manual," and Allibone's "Dictionary of Authors," which are scarcely considered Bibliographies at all, as we understand the subject now.

To-day we have Bibliographies dealing entirely with a subject, giving in extensive detail a description of all the books relative to that subject—for example, Bigmore and Wyman's "Bibliography of Printing," and Agassiz's "Bibliographia Zoologiæ et Geologiæ."

No book of importance is considered complete now-a-days unless valuable aid is given to the student by the addition of a list of books closely connected with the subject he is studying. He is thus able to pursue his course of reading by reference to these authorities. This is as it should be, as side by side with the general study of the subject an interest in a special or restricted aspect has gradually been developed and the student is attracted to dip deeper into the subject than he perhaps

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otherwise would, to say nothing of his inclination to verify statements and conclusions deduced and advanced by the author of the original treatise.

We might dismiss from all recent Bibliographies any attempt on the part of the Compilers to record entries of books which are only remarkable for their rarity. This has become the work of old-fashioned Bibliographers, and we are not concerned with such, neither do we think "select" Bibliographies of much purpose, giving as they do only the "chiefest of the chief" books. To cover the whole ground of the subject is to make a useful compilation and a permanent and valuable contribution to a National Bibliography, and an honest endeavour to reduce the book matter of the World to some kind of systematic order.

In this Bibliography it does not matter whether the book commands a high or a low price in the market—the important fact set out in the minds of the Compilers at the beginning was to record, if possible, *all* the publications they could find by research work, whether old or new, great or small, and to index them for the use and service of those members of the public—book-buyers, booksellers and librarians—who will find it of value to have a bibliographical record to which they may turn for information as to the extent to which authors have carried their unfinished publications.

The titles of obscure books have been literally transcribed from the British Museum Catalogues, and if the entry of a book is lacking size or pagination, it is because the compilers have been unable to consult the book.

Our Thanks are due to Mr. F. W. Pepper and Mr. T. W. Wright for much valuable help.



INTRODUCTION



HERE is in the study of uncompleted books something which appeals to a quality inherent in most people's minds—perhaps especially so in the mind of the book-lover. Few of us do not know the attraction of rambling in the by-ways of speculative thought, of wondering, as it were, what comes after that which is already known, and of trying to map out a footpath across untrodden fields from the point where the track already worn comes to an end. Not always a very safe attraction is this ; for if it be pursued in the regions of metaphysics, of morals, of theology, and of philosophy, it is all too apt to leave the venturesome thinker floundering in the bog whither the will-o'-the-wisp of his fancy has led him. No such pitfalls, however, await the sojourner in the field of fragmentary art and unfinished literature ; nor is there any field more fruitful of the exercise of pleasurable speculation and ingenious invention. And yet how impossible it seems to complete any picture, poem, tale or statue, and feel satisfied that the completion is really that which the man who conceived it would have chosen. Take, for instance, the Venus de Milo, in her incompleteness so satisfying yet so tantalising, filling the mind with a desire to see the glorious creation just as it left the sculptor's hands. A while ago a well-known monthly