

**BOOKS  
AND PLAYS**

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Books and plays by Allan Monkhouse

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**ALLAN MONKHOUSE**

**BOOKS  
AND PLAYS**

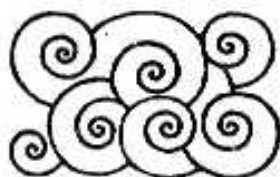


BOOKS AND PLAYS

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*Books and Plays*

By Allan <sup>Scott</sup> Monkhouse



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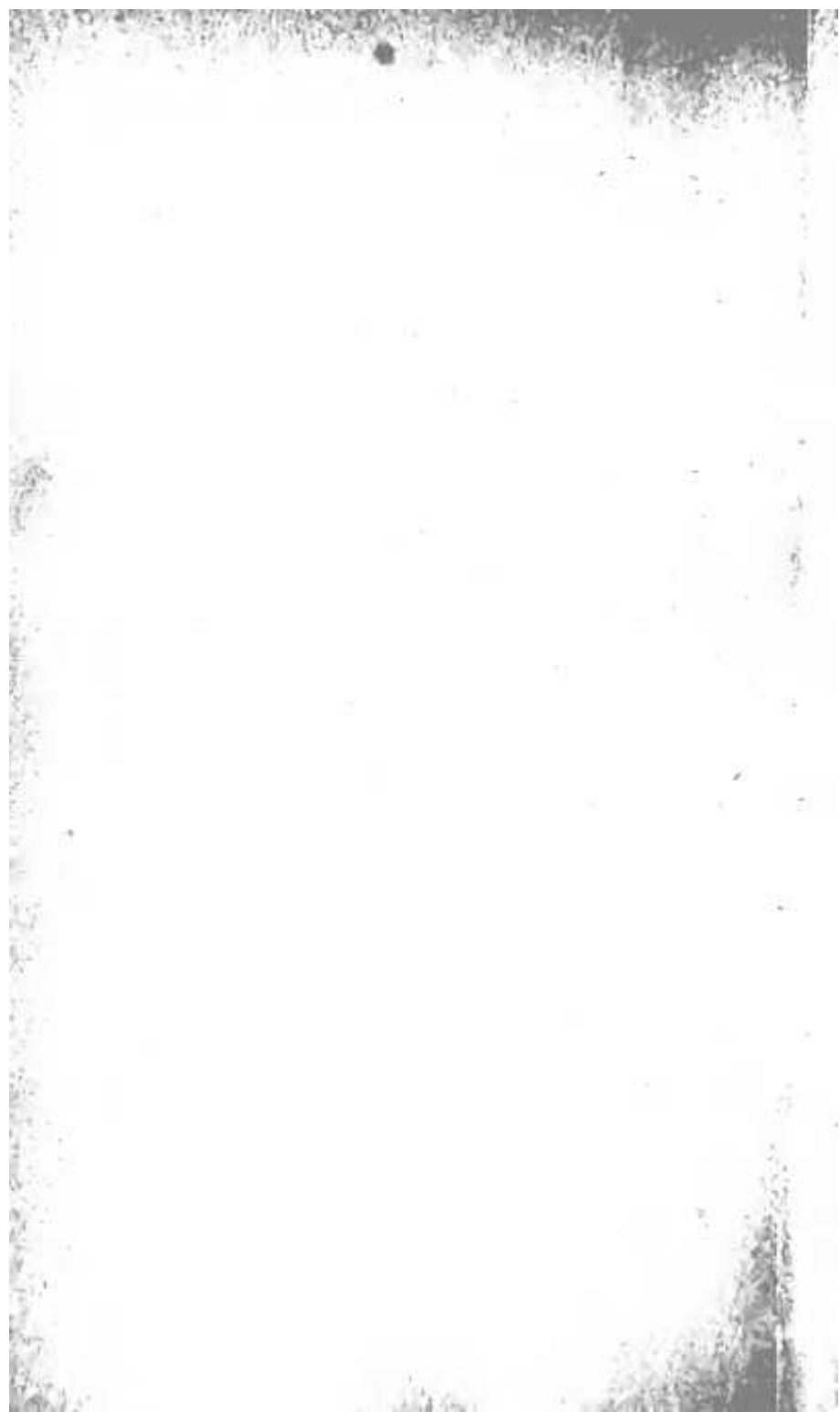
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## CONTENTS

	PAGE
MR MEREDITH'S NOVELS . . . . .	I
MR MEREDITH'S POEMS . . . . .	47
GEORGE BORROW . . . . .	80
TURGHNIEFF . . . . .	118
IBSEN'S SOCIAL PLAYS . . . . .	155
THREE PLAYS BY MR STEVENSON AND MR HENLEY . . . . .	186
THE POLITICS OF DRAMATIC ART . . . . .	193





## BOOKS AND PLAYS

### MR MEREDITH'S NOVELS

MR MEREDITH'S position among contemporary novelists is a peculiar one though it has recently undergone some modification. His following has hitherto made up in enthusiasm what it has lacked in numbers, but he has lately become known to a wider circle of readers, and has necessarily, therefore, increased his admirers, who have been encouraged to proclaim their belief in his powers and accomplishments, and their confidence in his ultimate recognition as one of the first literary artists of his time and country. His increased fame seems to date from the publication of 'Diana of the Crossways,' which is less fitted to the requirements of popular taste than others of his books, but which had the advantage of timely and unsparing praise

from several of the critical journals. Whether this accounts in any measure for its relatively remarkable success or not, it appears to have been the first of Mr Meredith's books to penetrate beyond a very limited circle. The result has been an increased and, perhaps, increasing interest in his productions, several of which had been for some time out of print, and, as Mr Stevenson said, 'sought for on bookstalls like an Aldine.' Now we have them in a cheap and in a cheaper edition, and other signs of popular attention are not wanting. The new journalism knows all about him, he is discussed in the critical weeklies, and if he has not yet attained the honour of the proverbial 'slating' in the *Quarterly*, he has been shown his place—which is not with the novelists it seems—by a distinguished writer in the *National Review*.

At the time when popular attention was directed toward him most of his books were either out of print or little known. Presently some half dozen masterpieces were tumbled upon the market, and they have proved a little difficult to digest. They are not like anything to which we were accustomed, for Mr Meredith has steadily pursued his own ideal, disregarding all temptations to aim at a superficial success.