

**THE POETRY AND
PHILOSOPHY OF
GEORGE MEREDITH**

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The Poetry and Philosophy of George Meredith by George Macaulay Trevelyan

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GEORGE MACAULAY TREVELYAN

**THE POETRY AND
PHILOSOPHY OF
GEORGE MEREDITH**

The Poetry and Philosophy of
GEORGE MEREDITH

BY

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'ENGLAND IN THE AGE OF WYCLIFFE,' AND
'ENGLAND UNDER THE STUARTS'

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TO THE MEMORY OF
THEODORE LLEWELYN DAVIES
WHO LOVED THESE POEMS

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PREFACE

It is my first duty to acknowledge the help in composing this book which I have received from several quarters. I heartily thank those friends who have made suggestions to me in conversation; but more particularly those who have so kindly gone through the book in MS. or in proof; and most of all, Mr. Desmond MacCarthy for valuable additions to my ideas inserted wholesale, especially in the first chapter. But I am equally indebted, though in a different way, to two others, whose conversation has for several years been influencing my thought and feeling on the subjects here treated. I mean, first, Mr. Meredith himself, who has not, however, in the official sense 'inspired' these pages, or seen them before publication. Secondly, I mean the friend to whose memory the book is dedicated; it was he who

most of all helped me to feel the spirit of the poems.

I am deeply grateful to Mr. Meredith and his publishers for the permission, not merely to make such long and frequent quotations in the text, but to reprint at the end of the volume the *Ode to the Spirit of Earth in Autumn*, not easily accessible elsewhere.

CHELSEA, Jan. 1906.

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