

**GILBERT, OF COLCHESTER:
AN ELIZABETHAN
MAGNETIZER**

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Gilbert, of Colchester: An Elizabethan Magnetizer by Silvanus P. Thompson

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SILVANUS P. THOMPSON

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BY

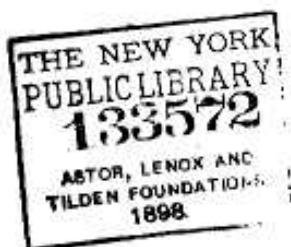
BRO. SILVANUS P. THOMPSON, D.Sc., B.A.
MAGNETIZER.

*Read at a Meeting of the Sette holden at Limmer's Hotel,
on Friday, the 4th of July, 1890.*



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DEDICATED TO
THE
Sette of Odd Volumes
BY
BRO. SILVANUS P. THOMPSON, D.Sc., B.A.
MAGNETIZER TO THE SETTE,
AN HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE GILBERT CLUB.



*This Edition is limited strictly to 249 copies, and
is imprinted for private circulation only.*

No. *83*

Presented unto

by

"Gilbert shall live till loadstones cease to draw,
Or British fleets the boundless ocean awe."

DRYDEN.

"*Mahomet's Tombe at Mecha*, is said strangely to hang up, attracted by some invisible *Loadstone*, but the memory of this *Doctor* will never fall to the ground, which his incomparable Book, '*De Magnete*,' will support to Eternity."

FULLER'S "Worthies."



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GILBERT, OF COLCHESTER.

WILLIAM GILBERT, or Gilbert, of Colchester, (born 1540, died 1603) holds amongst Elizabethan worthies a rank in the eyes of electricians second to none of his famous contemporaries. In an age of empiricism and ignorance he rescued the study of the magnet from the atmosphere of occult mysticism with which it was surrounded, and placed it for ever on a scientific basis. He founded the theory of the mariner's compass by his brilliant discovery of the magnetism of the globe. Whilst the fantastic philosophies of the schoolmen still

prevailed, he calmly worked out the inductive method of reasoning from the known to the unknown, trying all his arguments by the touchstone of experiment. Nor is even this his greatest achievement. He stands forth pre-eminent as the founder of the science of electricity; the father, therefore, of all that host of inventions which are the crown of the scientific progress of the nineteenth century. His great work, "De Magnete," published in 1600, after many years of patient laborious and costly research, drew the attention of all the learned men of Europe, and won for him an undying fame.

"I extremely admire and envy the author of 'De Magnete.' I think him worthy of the greatest praise for the many new and true observations which he has made."

said Galileo the famous astronomer.