

**LIFE AT THE
MERMAID AND
OTHER ESSAYS**

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Life at the Mermaid and other essays by Sir J. C. Squire

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SIR J. C. SQUIRE

**LIFE AT THE
MERMAID AND
OTHER ESSAYS**

LIFE AT THE MERMAID
AND OTHER ESSAYS



COME, MY
BEST FRIENDS
MY BOOKS
AND LEAD ME
ON

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MERMAID

J.C.
SQUIRE

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PREFACE

SOME of these essays are new in book form; others, by courtesy of Messrs. Heinemann, are chosen from *Life and Letters*, *Books Reviewed*, and three volumes entitled *Books in General*.

A correct title, therefore, would have been *Selected Essays*. But how dull that sounds. Having toyed with various general abstract titles of the *Reflections*, *Thoughts*, and *Ruminations* type, I fell back on the common resort of poets, and decided to name the book after one of the essays included. *On Being a Jonah* might have been regarded as too bitterly ironical by the publishers who have rashly taken me aboard; there were other objections to other titles; in the end I chose one which seemed to give the most thoroughly misleading impression of the nature and interest of the book.

J. C. S.

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