

**THE NOVELS OF  
GEORGE MEREDITH:  
A STUDY**

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The novels of George Meredith: a study by Elmer James Bailey

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**ELMER JAMES BAILEY**

**THE NOVELS OF  
GEORGE MEREDITH:  
A STUDY**



The Novels of George  
Meredith: A Study



George Washington

# The Novels of George Meredith: A Study

BY

ELMER JAMES BAILEY

T. FISHER UNWIN

1 ADELPHI TERRACE

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For  
Sidney  
Crapsey

TO  
ALGERNON SIDNEY CRAPSEY

"Our spoken in protest remains,  
A young generation reaps."

MEREDITH: *The Empty Parrot.*

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# THE NOVELS OF GEORGE MEREDITH: A STUDY

## I

### INTRODUCTION

COMPENSATION IN LITERARY RENOWN—THE PROB-  
ABLE PERMANENCE OF MEREDITH'S FAME—THE  
PERIODS OF HIS CAREER.

THE fame which comes to an author is no less a result of the action of moral law than is the glory of a general, the renown of a statesman, or the beatification of a martyr. Long ago the clear-eyed Greeks perceived that although Fortune dealt out her gifts with sovereign disregard of merit or desert, she was sooner or later followed by Nemesis, the goddess of due proportion, who ruthlessly shattered such prosperity as seemed even moderately beyond the mean. In the long run, the alternating movement set up by repeated visitations of the two deities, satisfied the mind of Justice; and the balance in her steady hand fell to rest. As forces, however, Fortune, Nemesis, and Justice did not become powerless with the passing of Athens and Rome. On the contrary, still existing, they were renamed by later