

ESSAYS I-XXX

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Essays I-XXX by Arthur Searle

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ARTHUR SEARLE

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BY

ARTHUR SEARLE



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ESSAYS

I

WRITING is certainly a harmless and unobtrusive occupation for old age; but it sometimes leads to printing, the expediency of which is always doubtful. If what has been printed is never read, there has been a waste of labor and materials; if readers are found, their time may be wasted. For this, however, they must be chiefly responsible. The responsibility which the writer cannot escape should warn him at least to be brief, and, in particular, to omit all apologies.

An opinion occasionally expressed, in which I concur, is that men who have thought seriously may properly leave behind them some record of their conclusions, whether printed or not. If they think that they have made any discoveries which the world will be the better for knowing, they may state them at any time of life; this is perhaps most likely to occur while they are young. But if they merely