

**PAPERS  
FROM LILLIPUT**

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Papers from Lilliput by J. B. Priestley

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**J. B. PRIESTLEY**

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BY  
J. B. PRIESTLEY

AUTHOR OF 'BRIEF DIVERSIONS'

CAMBRIDGE  
BOWES & BOWES

1922

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

TO  
MY FATHER

*Some of these essays have appeared in THE LONDON MERCURY, THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, THE OUTLOOK, and THE CAMBRIDGE REVIEW. Others have been selected from a large number I contributed (week by week, under the pseudonym of 'Peter of Pomfret') to the YORKSHIRE OBSERVER. Others again are the first-fruits of a current series of such things I am contributing to THE CHALLENGE under the general title of 'New Papers from Lilliput.' I take this opportunity of thanking all the editors concerned for their hospitality to these not, I trust, too ill-favoured banblings of mine, and hope that they will not regret it if they should now chance to renew the acquaintance.*

*J. B. P.*

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## ON A CERTAIN PROVINCIAL PLAYER

It has been said that literature must use its gift of praise or it will come to nothing. Those of us who keep up a little dribble of ink, though we aspire to be very Swifts, must ultimately bestow our commendation somewhere : our praise is the last, greatest and kindest weapon in our poor armoury. If we can applaud where most men have kept silent, so much the better : we are fine fellows, using our little tricks to sweeten the world. So much preamble is necessary because I wish to bring forward, in this season of burning questions, the figure of a poor player who died over one hundred and fifty years ago and whose very name is now only known to a few. True, it can be found in many places, but who goes to them ? For my part, I have rescued him from the pages of *The Eccentric Mirror*, a quaint production of four volumes, ' reflecting