

**REVIEWS AND
ESSAYS IN ENGLISH
LITERATURE**

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Reviews and Essays in English Literature by Duncan Crookes Tovey

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DUNCAN CROOKES TOVEY

**REVIEWS AND
ESSAYS IN ENGLISH
LITERATURE**

REVIEWS AND ESSAYS

IN

ENGLISH LITERATURE

BY

THE REV. DUNCAN C. TOVEY, M.A.

Clark Lecturer at Trinity College, Cambridge; editor of "Gray and his Friends"; "Thomson's Poetical Works," etc.



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To M. T.

MADAM,

In dedicating this volume to you, I presume upon the kindness which has placed at my disposal the sketch (signed with your respected initials) with which it concludes.

That sketch, Madam, is like the solitary Tangerine orange (floating at the top in a little lake of syrup) which the lamented Corney Grain was wont to recommend to the young hostess as a simple but sure note of distinction for the otherwise conventional *trifle*.

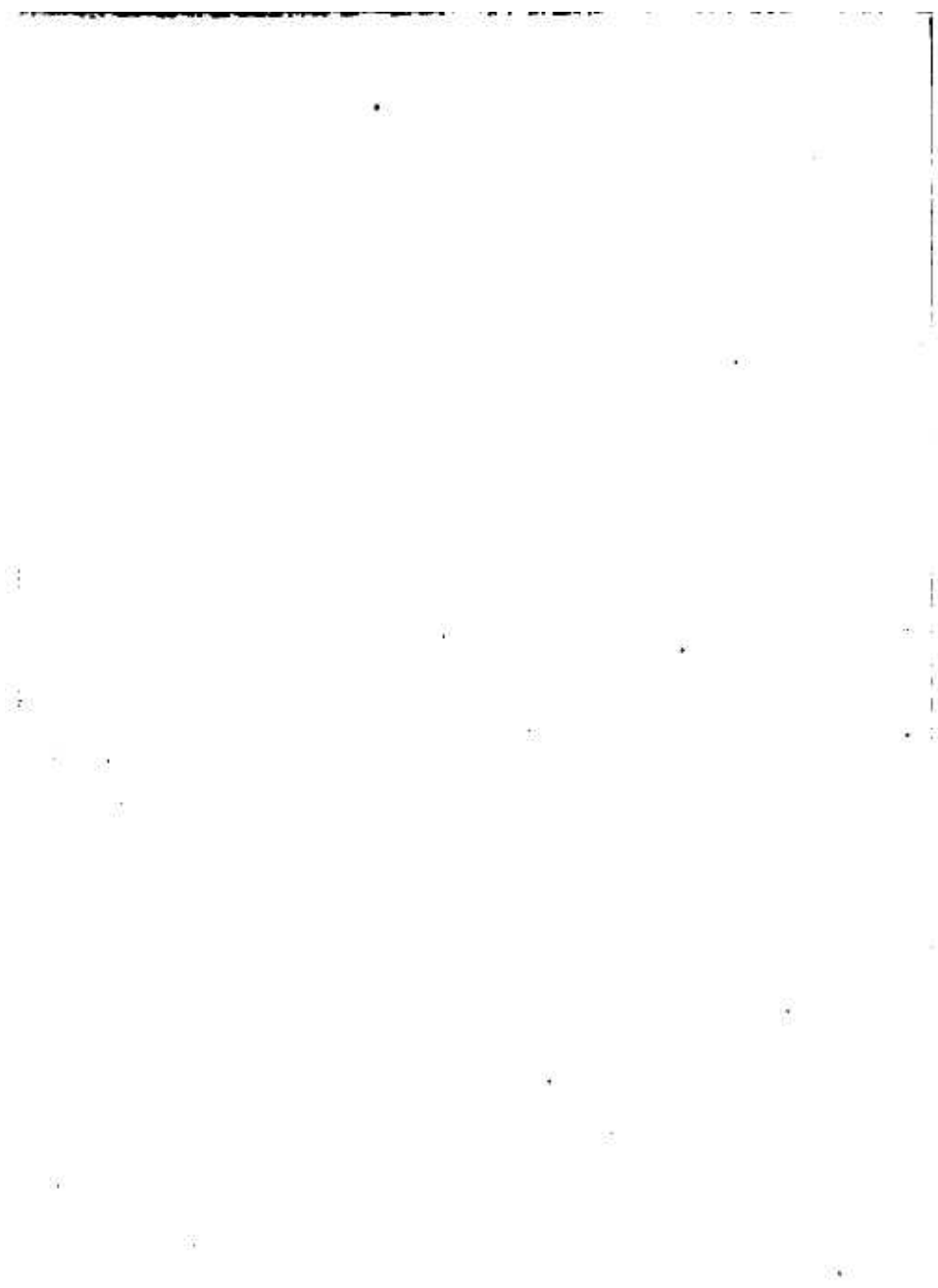
The critic, in his paltering fashion, dissects and dissects, destroying the vital principle which he is endeavouring to discover—and then you come, and *presto!* the victims revive, quickened by a breath so kindred that they mistake it for their own.

That through you I am enabled "to adorn my page," great boon as it is, is among the least of those many boons which entitle me to subscribe myself,

Madam,

Your obliged and grateful servant,

D. C. TOVEY.



PREFACE

THOUGH the following papers are reprinted, by kind permission, from the "Guardian," it is right to say that that journal is in no way responsible for the opinions here expressed.

The paper on the Teaching of English Literature is written with considerable exaggeration, not so much of fact as of tone. The writer is himself as guilty as any of those whom he impugns; and states a problem of which he can only offer a partial and tentative solution. His excuse for vehemence must be, that there is so much clamour upon educational questions at the present day, that, in order to be heard, it is necessary to shout.

Some remarks upon certain characteristics of the eighteenth century, borrowed for the writer's life of Thomson, appear now in their original setting in the Essay on Gay.

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