

**HUDIBRAS.
PART I**

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Hudibras. Part I by Samuel Butler & Alfred Milnes

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SAMUEL BUTLER & ALFRED MILNES

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PART I**

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BY
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PART I

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INTRODUCTION.

THE materials for the Life of Samuel Butler are very scanty. We meet everywhere with contradictory legends, but few facts really ascertained. Since the time when Dr. Johnson wrote his Life of Butler, criticism, literary and historical, has accomplished much in other directions, but for Butler it seems as if little more could now be done. Johnson himself, after sketching the leading facts of the great humourist's life, says:—'In this mist of obscurity passed the life of Butler, a man whose name can only perish with his language. The mode and place of his education are unknown; the events of his life are variously related; and all that can be told with certainty is that he was poor.'

Confining ourselves as far as possible, for the purposes of this edition, to what is known, as distinguished from what is conjectured, we shall find, then, the record of Butler's life to be comprized in few words. Samuel Butler the poet was born in the parish of Strensham in Worcestershire, and was named after his father, one Samuel Butler, who rented a farm from Sir William Russel, and seems to have been a person of some social status amongst his neighbours, since he kept the parish registers