

LIFE OF MIGUEL DE CERVANTES

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Life of Miguel de Cervantes by Henry Edward Watts

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HENRY EDWARD WATTS

**LIFE OF MIGUEL
DE CERVANTES**

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OF
MIGUEL DE CERVANTES

BY
HENRY EDWARD WATTS.

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PREFATORY NOTE.



THE Life of Cervantes here presented, as one of the series of "Great Writers," is designed to correspond in scale and in character with the literary biographies familiar under that name to the British public. There have been many Lives of Cervantes, of which I have myself written two. The ampler biography prefixed to my edition of *Don Quixote* (1888) was intended especially to serve as an introduction to my translation of Cervantes' great work, in accordance with my theory that the best commentary on the book is the life of the author. It was part of a large scheme which embraced a complete and fully-equipped edition of *Don Quixote*, brought down to the present state of knowledge, on a scale worthy of the book as one of the world's great classics. That edition was so limited in the number of copies printed as scarcely to deserve the name of publication.

The present Life of Cervantes is an entirely new work, built out of the materials which I had collected for my larger edition. It is re-written and re-arranged, with