

**ESSAYS ABOUT
MEN, WOMEN,
AND BOOKS**

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Essays about Men, Women, and Books by Augustine Birrell

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AUGUSTINE BIRRELL

**ESSAYS ABOUT
MEN, WOMEN,
AND BOOKS**

ESSAYS ABOUT
MEN WOMEN AND
BOOKS

BY
AUGUSTINE BIRRELL
AUTHOR OF 'OBITER DICTA,' ETC.



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To

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MOST GENEROUS OF BOOK-HUNTERS



CONTENTS

	PAGE
DEAN SWIFT	1
LORD BOLINGBROKE	16
STERNE	29
DR. JOHNSON	39
RICHARD CUMBERLAND	48
ALEXANDER KNOX AND THOMAS DE QUINCEY	59
HANNAH MORE	70
MARIE BASHKIRTSEFF	81
SIR JOHN VANBRUGH	96
JOHN GAY	109
ROGER NORTH'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY	121
BOOKS OLD AND NEW	134
BOOK-BINDING	147
POETS LAUREATE	157
PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES	167
THE BONÁ-FIDE TRAVELLER	178
'HOURS IN A LIBRARY'	190
AMERICANISMS AND BRITICISMS	200
AUTHORS AND CRITICS	211

DEAN SWIFT

OF writing books about Dean Swift there is no end. We make no complaint, because we find no fault; we express no wonder, for we feel none. The subject is, and must always remain, one of strange fascination. We have no author like the Dean of St. Patrick's. It has been said of Wordsworth that good-luck usually attended those who have written about him. The same thing may be said, with at least equal truth, about Swift. There are a great many books about him, and with few exceptions they are all interesting.

A man who has had his tale told by Johnson and Scott ought to be comprehensible. Swift has been,