

**FATHER ARCHANGEL
OF SCOTLAND AND
OTHER ESSAYS**

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Father Archangel of Scotland and other essays by G. Cunninghame Graham & R. B. Cunninghame Graham

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G. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM & R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM

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Father Archangel of Scotland

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Father Archangel
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BY

G. & R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM

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‘ TO THE RESPECTABLE
PUBLIC ’

WHY the adjective ‘respectable’ should be applied to the public rather than ‘gullible,’ ‘adipose,’ or ‘flatulent,’ I am unable to determine. Taken in bulk, the public is prone to eat and drink more than is good for it, either in its corporate or individual capacity. No reasoning being will maintain that its taste in art, literature, gastronomy, or politics is worth a moment’s serious consideration. Its knowledge of ‘knurr and spell,’ or ‘numismatics’ is apt to be deficient. Still I presume it is respectable if only as the final court, to which all actors, politicians, mountebanks, physicians, lawyers, writers, whether of trifling articles

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Preface

like these or ponderous volumes destined to repose amid the dust of libraries, come for its decision.

Let it therefore be respectable because every professor, whether of ground or lofty tumbling, in arts, literature, sciences, or veterinary surgery, by its opinion must live and have his being.

Therefore a preface is a thing quite indispensable.

Now in these latter days your preface has fallen into considerable neglect. It may be that the public has no time to spare from the perusal of the share lists to devote to prefaces. It may be that the art, like that of chiromancy, Roman glass, Byzantine mosaics, and the proper knowledge of heraldry, venery, and other things conducive to a liberal education, has been lost. It may be that advertisements have killed the preface. Perhaps the lack of noble patrons to whom to address oneself has caused its ruin. Who in cold

Preface

blood could call upon a School Board Duke for his protection? The man would be pursuing (his electors), at a meeting, or perchance passing the post-office employés in review.

Prefaces and advertisement are either compliments of one another or else sworn adversaries, I don't know which. In former times the author had to do much of his own advertisement, therefore in his preface he gave a taste of what was in his book, or, if not that, of what was in himself. To-day, no matter how bad the book may be itself, the preface is almost certain to exceed it. Which latter case, for all I know, may point the moral to this little volume.

The articles which follow were all written without reference to one another. Therefore it is not unlikely that they resemble a crowd of people at a railway junction, all rushing to and fro, without connection save only of the labels on their