

**POETRY AND PROSE:
BEING
ESSAYS ON MODERN
ENGLISH POETRY**

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Poetry and Prose: Being Essays on Modern English Poetry by Adolphus Alfred Jack

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ADOLPHUS ALFRED JACK

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Essays on Modern English Poetry

BY

ADOLPHUS ALFRED JACK



Library of
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NEW YORK
E. P. DUTTON AND CO.

1912

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

TO

L. J.

'Non enim possumus omnia per nos agere.'

257371



P R E F A C E

THIS little book is an attempt to make a little clearer what every one feels about poetry. It is an attempt pursued in a number of essays upon themes so familiar that in writing upon them I have the advantage of touching directly upon the actual poetical experience of almost every reader. There is the further personal advantage that in dealing with a body of poetry so often analysed, the liability to individual caprice is, at least in part, eliminated.

But there is one drawback. The familiarity of the subjects increases the difficulty, always present to the modern critical writer, of adequate acknowledgment. Where I am conscious of specific obligations to critical literature I have of course acknowledged them, but there remains a general indebtedness to all I have read. I should add in particular that I should probably not have ventured to write on Meredith's poetry at all but for the aid of Mr. Trevelyan's wonderfully clear Introduction; that I have also found *George Meredith*, by M. Sturge Henderson, with the poetical

chapters by Mr. Basil de Sélincourt, very helpful ; and that though I had thought for many years about Wordsworth's poetry, Professor Raleigh's Study caused me to reconsider my method of approach. The writings that of recent years have done most to control my critical attitude are those which Mr. Bradley has collected in his *Oxford Lectures on Poetry*.

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