

**LITERARY PAMPHLETS  
CHIEFLY RELATING TO  
POETRY FROM SIDNEY  
TO BYRON. VOLUME I**

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Literary Pamphlets Chiefly Relating to Poetry from Sidney to Byron. Volume I by Ernest Rhys

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**ERNEST RHYS**

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THE PAMPHLET LIBRARY

*Edited by* ARTHUR WAUGH

LITERARY PAMPHLETS

# LITERARY PAMPHLETS

CHIEFLY RELATING TO POETRY

FROM SIDNEY TO BYRON

SELECTED AND ARRANGED  
*WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES*  
BY ERNEST RHYS

VOLUME I



LONDON  
KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & CO.

1897  
M.T.

## PREFATORY NOTE

TO

### 'THE PAMPHLET LIBRARY'

THE object of *The Pamphlet Library* is to set before readers who are interested in the literary and constitutional history of our country the text of those pamphlets or tractates which, besides possessing the only saving qualities of distinction and style, have also exercised a striking influence upon the current of events. At present five volumes are in contemplation, dealing respectively with pamphlets of political, literary, religious, and dramatic significance, and the editors who have undertaken them have regulated their choice primarily by two considerations. Each pamphlet, it has been held, should have high literary qualities, and should also mark a distinct change or development of taste or standpoint. Unfortunately, the pamphleteer of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was not always as brief as he was effective, and the restrictions of space have obliged the omission of some

polemical articles which might possibly have been included with advantage. It is hoped, however, that by means of excerpt and footnote no pamphlet of the first importance has been altogether neglected; and the editors of the various volumes explain in their introductions the reason and the limit of their selections. Concerning the value of the Pamphlet and the expediency of its recension, Dr Johnson himself will be found discoursing with pregnancy and wit in the present volume of our Series, and his strenuous sentences are more than sufficient argument in favour of the present enterprise. For, indeed, Reform is the child of Controversy, and the most effectual arrows in the quiver of Controversy are those of a country's Press. Before the day of the clamouring newspaper, the Pamphlet was the leader of popular taste, so that in a study of these fugitive pieces we may see the features of an Age, as in a glass, may mark its expression, and understand its tendency. As some such footnote to history the following papers have been collected. How far they may prove of value it rests with others to decide.

A. W.



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## INTRODUCTION

ACCORDING to Dr. Johnson, 'the Age of Pamphlets' was the reign of Queen Anne; and he spoke as it were *ex cathedra*, from the top of the huge pile of such things heaped up in the Harleian collection. It was then no doubt that small tracts and pamphlets grew and multiplied most; with Swift and Defoe to spirit their growth, with men and manners, politics and religion, Patridge's wild predictions, and the first disturbing rumours of Berkeley's noble idealism, serving them with no end of ready topics. But Literature itself came less in the pamphleteer's way, relatively speaking, than might have been expected. The literature about literature: the defence of poetry, the maintenance of the liberties of prose, were less pamphleted because there were so many other things to write about, and because there were so many other easy ways of current publication. And so it is, if we are to count by queens; as the accidents of literary history rather compel us to do, we must turn from the days of Queen Anne to those of Queen Elizabeth for the