

**SELECTIONS FROM THE BRITISH APOLLO,
CONTAINING ANSWERS TO CURIOUS
QUESTIONS IN LITERATURE, SCIENCE,
FOLK-LORE, AND LOVE, PERFORMED BY
A SOCIETY OF GENTLEMEN IN THE REIGN
OF QUEEN ANNE**

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Selections from the British Apollo, Containing Answers to Curious Questions in Literature, Science, Folk-Lore, and Love, Performed by a Society of Gentlemen in the Reign of Queen Anne by G. W. Niven

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G. W. NIVEN

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Selections from The British Apollo

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ALEXANDER GARDNER PAISLEY

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. . . THE REIGN OF QUEEN ANNE . . .

A Study in the Evolution of Periodical Literature

EDITED BY THE LATE

G. W. NIVEN

Honorary Secretary, Greenock Natural History Society

WITH INTRODUCTION BY

THE REV. HUGH MACMILLAN

D.D., LL.D., F.R.S.E., F.S.A. SCOT.

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PREFACE.

THE publication of this volume is the outcome of a request made to me by a number of my late father's friends, whose desire it was to have in book form some of his many writings.

On undertaking the fulfilment of this wish I found myself in some perplexity, not by any means on account of dearth of material, but as to the selection of that which it would be most desirable to publish—the majority of his writings being of a technical nature. Considering this, and in view of the fact that, had he lived, it was my father's intention to have them published, the editorial articles on the *British Apollo* have been selected, and are now presented with a number of extracts from that quaint and humorous work.

The *British Apollo*, as will be learned from the succeeding chapters, is a work of extreme rarity, and one which appears to have been quite overlooked by students of the literature of the Queen Anne Period. It is a remarkable fact that the