Studies in the literary relations of England and Germany in the sixteenth century

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The First Quarto Edition of Hamlet, being the Essay to which the Harness Prize was jointly awarded, 1880. Smith, Elder and Co., London.

A Sketch of the Social History of the English Drama, being the Le Bas Prize Essay for 1880. E. Johnson, Cambridge.

The Stoics as Teachers, being the Hare Prize Essay for 1881. E. Johnson, Cambridge.
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STUDIES
IN
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BY
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MANCHESTER.

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le patois
Que le savetier Sachs mit en gloire autrefois.

D. Juan. Beltrán, sátiro estás!
Beltr. ¿En qué discreto, señor,
No predomina ese humor?

Musset.

Alarcon.
THE researches embodied in the present volume were prosecuted during my tenure of one of the Berkeley fellowships of the Owens College; and I have, at the outset, to express my acknowledgments to the Council, not merely for thus enabling me to follow out a long-formed scheme of investigation, but for the extreme indulgence which I have enjoyed during its protracted execution.

An unusually explicit statement of literary obligations is one of the few ways in which those who venture to write books on unfamiliar subjects can acknowledge their indebtedness to those who read them. I should otherwise shrink from the egoism of saying that the present volume owes its original stimulus to a few lectures upon the German literature of the sixteenth century, by three masters in it, Professors Erich Schmidt, Geiger and Scherer; to which I had the privilege
of listening (in the last case as a casual visitor) at Vienna and Berlin, in the summers of 1881 and 1882. I do not think that much of the book in its present shape is directly due to them, even where it deals most immediately with German literature; but I owe to their luminous and vivid exposition the sense for the peculiar power of this remarkable literature, without which I should hardly have attempted to trace its reflexions in our own. Among other aids to the study of the German branch of the subject I need scarcely refer to the classical editions of particular books by Zarncke, Adelbert v. Keller, Lappendberg, Hoffmann v. Fallersleben, Oesterley, Schade, the brilliant incidental work done by Scherer and Erich Schmidt on the Latin drama and the novel in scattered articles and lectures, still less to the invaluable Gründriss of Goedeke, nowhere so invaluable as for exactly this period. In working out the English side, I owe most to a somewhat old-fashioned school of antiquarians,—Thoms, Wright and Kemble, to various publications of the Percy, Shakspeare, and New Shakspere Societies, to the editorial work of Dyce, Ward, Wagner, Oesterley, and, finally, to the two admirable essays of Prof. K. Elze,—one of them contained in the introduction to his edition of the Alphonsus,—which, excepting perhaps the melancholy abortions of the late William Bell, are the only previous attempts with which I am acquainted to carry out a design somewhat resembling that of the present volume. It remains to refer to more personal obligations. I have to thank
the librarians of the Bodleian, of Queen's College, Oxford, and of the Royal Library at Berlin, for exceptional kindness in sending particulars of books in their possession; Mr F. Seebohm for making inquiries about Ralph Radcliff at Hitchin; and Prof. Ward, Dr H. Hager, Dr Furnivall, Dr J. Bolte of Berlin, and Mr A. H. Bullen for incidental help always willingly given. For more ordinary good offices I am indebted to the librarians of Lambeth, the Cambridge Public Library, the Free, Chetham and Owens College libraries in Manchester, and above all to the late and present superintendents of the Reading-room of the British Museum. Superfluous as it may seem, I cannot refrain from expressing the immensity of my debt to the last-named library, some idea of which will be conveyed by my notes. Not only has almost the entire work of research been done there, but a great part of it could have been done nowhere else. There alone, whether in Germany or in England, was it possible to draw upon a collection in which the original literatures of both countries were richly represented, where above all there was an unrivalled store of the German satires and pasquils of the Reformation. I have accordingly been enabled to attempt throughout a fairly high degree of minuteness in the matter of references. The infinite opportunities of error which this method brings with it I cannot indeed possibly hope to have escaped; and I am painfully conscious of needing in this respect as in others an indulgence which I have neither the right to ask, nor the critic, perhaps, to give. It may at least,
however, be taken, where the contrary is not implied, that every book here referred to I have seen, and that every judgment passed is founded upon first-hand knowledge.

I have reserved to the close a special obligation. I have to thank Professor Ward both for the loan of books (for which I am also indebted to my friends Dr H. Hager, and Mr J. Finlayson) and for the great kindness with which, in the midst of multifarious work, he undertook to revise my proofsheets. Almost all of them owe something to having passed under the eye of undoubtedly the most competent of living English scholars in the double field which I have attempted to traverse. It is now a considerable number of years since I derived from Prof. Ward the first impulse to literary study; I rejoice at the circumstances which have permitted me thus to resume under a new guise somewhat of the old forms, and to renew some of the old privileges, of studentship.

A book like the present is necessarily addressed mainly to two classes of literary specialists, not precisely identical in character. I have in general avoided dealing at length with matters thoroughly familiar to English as well as to German scholarship. In certain parts of the subject however it was necessary to be either obscure to the one or redundant to the other; and here my German critics will hardly blame me for having, in an English book, considered chiefly the English reader. The introductions, particularly, to the various chapters, and other portions dealing with German litera-