

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

FROM THE BEGINNINGS TO THE CYCLES OF ROMANCE

1. The Beginnings, p. 1; 2. Runes and Manuscripts, p. 2; 3. Early National Poetry, p. 3; 4. Old English Christian Poetry, p. 6; 5. Latin Writings in England to the Time of Alfred, p. 10; 6. Alfred and the Old English Prose of his Reign, p. 13; 7. From Alfred to the Conquest, p. 15; 8. The Norman Conquest, p. 18; 9. Latin Chroniclers from the Eleventh to the Thirteenth Century, p. 20; 10. English Scholars of Paris and Franciscans of Oxford: Latin Literature of England from John of Salisbury to Richard of Bury, p. 24;
11. Early Transition English, p. 28; 12. The Arthurian Legend, p. 33; 13. The Metrical Romances (i), p. 38; 14. The Metrical Romances (ii), p. 43; 15. *Pearl*, *Cleanness*, *Patience* and *Sir Gawayne*, p. 46; 16. Later Transition English: Legendaries and Chronicles, p. 48; 17. Later Transition English: Secular and Sacred Lyrics, Tales, Social Satire, p. 50; 18. Prosody of Old and Middle English, p. 53; 19. Changes in the Language to the Days of Chaucer, p. 56; 20. The Anglo-French Law Language, p. 58.

CHAPTER II

THE END OF THE MIDDLE AGES

1. *Piers Plowman* and its Sequence, p. 60; 2. Religious Movements in the Fourteenth Century, p. 64; 3. The Beginnings of English Prose, p. 68; 4. The Scottish Language: Early and Middle Scots, p. 70; 5. The Earliest Scottish Literature, p. 72; 6. Gower, p. 75; 7. Chaucer, p. 77; 8. The English Chaucerians, p. 84; 9. Hawes, p. 86; 10. The Scottish Chaucerians, p. 88; 11. The Middle Scots Anthologies, p. 92; 12. English Prose in the Fifteenth Century (i), p. 94; 13. Introduction of Printing into England, p. 98; 14. English Prose in the Fifteenth Century (ii), p. 101; 15. English Education: Universities and Public Schools to the Time of Colet, p. 103; 16. Transition English Song Collections, p. 106; 17. Ballads, p. 108; 18. Political and Religious Verse to the Close of the Fifteenth Century, p. 114.

CHAPTER III

RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION

1. Englishmen and the Classical Renaissance, p. 116; 2. Reformation Literature in England, p. 120; 3. Dissolution of the Religious Houses, p. 125; 4. Barclay and Skelton: Early German Influences on English Literature, p. 126; 5. Social Literature in Tudor Times, p. 130; 6. Sir David Lyndsay, p. 134; 7. Reformation and Renaissance in Scotland, p. 136; 8. The New English Poetry, p. 140; 9. *A Mirror for Magistrates*, p. 145; 10. George Gascoigne, p. 146; 11. The Poetry of Spenser, p. 147; 12. The Elizabethan Sonnet, p. 150; 13. Prosody from Chaucer to Spenser, p. 152; 14. Elizabethan Criticism, p. 154; 15. Chroniclers and Antiquaries, p. 157; 16. Elizabethan Prose Fiction, p. 160; 17. The Marprelate Controversy, p. 164; 18. *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*, p. 166; 19. English Universities, Schools and Scholarship in the Sixteenth Century, p. 168; 20. The Language from Chaucer to Shakespeare, p. 170.

CHAPTER IV

PROSE AND POETRY: SIR THOMAS NORTH
TO MICHAEL DRAYTON

1. Translators, *p.* 173; 2. The Authorized Version and its Influence, *p.* 178; 3. Sir Walter Raleigh, *p.* 181; 4. The Literature of the Sea: From the Origins to Hakluyt, *p.* 183; 5. Seafaring and Travel: The Growth of Professional Text Books and Geographical Literature, *p.* 185; 6. The Song Books and Miscellanies, *p.* 188; 7. Robert Southwell, John Davies, William Warner, Samuel Daniel, *p.* 191; 8. Thomas Campion, *p.* 192; 9. The Successors of Spenser, *p.* 193; 10. Michael Drayton, *p.* 196; 11. Donne, *p.* 198; 12. The English Pulpit from Fisher to Donne, *p.* 202; 13. Robert Burton, John Barclay, John Owen, *p.* 204; 14. The Beginnings of English Philosophy, *p.* 206; 15. Early Writings on Politics and Economics, *p.* 213; 16. London and the Development of Popular Literature, *p.* 217; 17. Writers on Country Pursuits and Pastimes, *p.* 223; 18. The Book Trade, 1557-1625, *p.* 224; 19. The Foundation of Libraries, *p.* 228.

CHAPTER V

THE DRAMA TO 1642: PART I

1. The Origins of English Drama: Introductory, *p.* 230; 2. Secular Influences on the Early English Drama: Minstrels, Village Festivals, Folk Plays, *p.* 233; 3. The Early Religious Drama: Miracle Plays and Moralities, *p.* 235; 4. Early English Tragedy, *p.* 240; 5. Early English Comedy, *p.* 243; 6. The Plays of the University Wits, *p.* 248; 7. Marlowe and Kyd, *p.* 251; 8. Shakespeare: Life and Plays, *p.* 255; 9. Shakespeare: Poems, *p.* 269; 10. Plays of Uncertain Authorship attributed to Shakespeare, *p.* 273; 11. The Text of Shakespeare, *p.* 276; 12. Shakespeare on the Continent, *p.* 281; 13. Lesser Elizabethan Dramatists, *p.* 286; 14. Some Political and Social Aspects of the Later Elizabethan and Earlier Stuart Period, *p.* 291.

CHAPTER VI

THE DRAMA TO 1642: PART II

1. Ben Jonson, *p.* 295; 2. Chapman, Marston, Dekker, *p.* 301; 3. Middleton and Rowley, *p.* 306; 4. Thomas Heywood, *p.* 308; 5. Beaumont and Fletcher, *p.* 311; 6. Philip Massinger, *p.* 317; 7. Tourneur and Webster, *p.* 319; 8. Ford and Shirley, *p.* 321; 9. Lesser Jacobean and Caroline Dramatists, *p.* 325; 10. The Elizabethan Theatre, *p.* 329; 11. The Children of the Chapel Royal and their Masters, *p.* 333; 12. University Plays: Tudor and Early Stuart Periods, *p.* 334; 13. Masque and Pastoral, *p.* 337; 14. The Puritan Attack upon the Stage, *p.* 340.

CHAPTER VII

CAVALIER AND PURITAN

1. Cavalier Lyrists, *p.* 344; 2. The Sacred Poets, *p.* 346; 3. Writers of the Couplet, *p.* 350; 4. Lesser Caroline Poets, *p.* 353; 5. Milton, *p.* 357; 6. Caroline Divines, *p.* 370; 7. John Bunyan, Andrew Marvell, *p.* 373; 8. Historical and Political Writings: (i) State Papers and Letters, *p.* 377; 9. Historical and Political Writings: (ii) Histories and Memoirs, *p.* 379; 10. Antiquaries: Sir Thomas Browne, Thomas Fuller, Izaak Walton, Sir Thomas Urquhart, *p.* 382; 11. Jacobean and Caroline Criticism, *p.* 386; 12. Hobbes and Contemporary Philosophy, *p.* 389; 13. Scholars and Scholarship, 1600-60, *p.* 393; 14. English Grammar Schools, *p.* 395; 15. The Beginnings of Journalism, *p.* 396; 16. The Advent of Modern Thought in Popular Literature. The Witch Controversy, *p.* 398.

CHAPTER VIII

THE AGE OF DRYDEN

1. Dryden, *p.* 401; 2. Samuel Butler, *p.* 410; 3. Political and Ecclesiastical Satire, *p.* 411; 4. The Early Quakers, *p.* 413; 5. The Restoration Drama: (i) D'Avenant, Etherege, etc., *p.* 416; 6. The Restoration Drama: (ii) Congreve, Vanbrugh, Farquhar, etc., *p.* 421; 7. The Restoration Drama: (iii) The Tragic Poets, *p.* 425; 8. The Court Poets, *p.* 429; 9. The Prosody of the Seventeenth Century, *p.* 431; 10. Memoir and Letter Writers, *p.* 434; 11. Platonists and Latitudinarians, *p.* 438; 12. Divines of the Church of England, *p.* 440; 13. Legal Literature, *p.* 443; 14. John Locke and Some Economists, *p.* 445; 15. The Progress of Science, *p.* 447; 16. The Essay and the Beginning of Modern English Prose, *p.* 449.

CHAPTER IX

FROM STEELE AND ADDISON TO
POPE AND SWIFT

1. Defoe: The Newspaper and the Novel, *p.* 452; 2. Steele and Addison, *p.* 457; 3. Pope, *p.* 460; 4. Swift, *p.* 465; 5. Arbuthnot and Lesser Prose Writers, *p.* 471; 6. Lesser Verse Writers, *p.* 473; 7. Historical and Political Writers: (i) Burnet and Others, *p.* 479; 8. Historical and Political Writers: (ii) Bolingbroke and Others, *p.* 481; 9. Memoir Writers, 1715-60, *p.* 483; 10. Burlesques and Translations, *p.* 485; 11. Berkeley and Contemporary Philosophy, *p.* 487; 12. William Law and the Mystics, *p.* 493; 13. Scholars and Antiquaries, *p.* 496; 14. Scottish Popular Poetry before Burns, *p.* 499; 15. Education, *p.* 501.

CHAPTER X

THE AGE OF JOHNSON

1. Richardson, *p.* 502; 2. Fielding and Smollett, *p.* 505; 3. Sterne and the Novel of his Times, *p.* 509; 4. The Drama and the Stage, *p.* 512; 5. Thomson and Natural Description in Poetry, *p.* 516; 6. Gray, *p.* 518; 7. Young, Collins and Lesser Poets of the Age of Johnson, *p.* 522; 8. Johnson and Boswell, *p.* 525; 9. Goldsmith, *p.* 531; 10. The Literary Influence of the Middle Ages: Macpherson's *Ossian*, Chatterton, Percy and the Warton, *p.* 533; 11. Letter Writers, *p.* 539; 12. Historians: (i) Hume and Robertson, *p.* 542; 13. Historians: (ii) Gibbon, *p.* 544; 14. Philosophers: Hume, Adam Smith and Others, *p.* 548; 15. Divines, *p.* 552; 16. The Growth of Dissent, *p.* 553; 17. Political Literature, 1755-75, *p.* 555.

CHAPTER XI

THE PERIOD OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

1. Burke, *p.* 558; 2. Political Writers and Speakers, *p.* 561; 3. Bentham and the Early Utilitarians, *p.* 566; 4. Cowper, *p.* 569; 5. Wordsworth, *p.* 572; 6. Coleridge, *p.* 578; 7. Crabbe, *p.* 584; 8. Southey and Lesser Poets of the Later Eighteenth Century, *p.* 585; 9. Blake, *p.* 588; 10. Burns: Lesser Scottish Verse, *p.* 595; 11. The Prosody of the Eighteenth Century, *p.* 600; 12. The Georgian Drama, *p.* 603; 13. The Growth of the Later Novel, *p.* 608; 14. Book Production and Distribution, 1625-1800, *p.* 613; 15. The Blue-Stockings, *p.* 615; 16. Children's Books, *p.* 616.

CHAPTER XII

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY: PART I

1. Scott, *p.* 620; 2. Byron, *p.* 626; 3. Shelley, *p.* 631; 4. Keats, *p.* 638; 5. Lesser Poets: Rogers, Campbell, Moore and Others, *p.* 642; 6. Reviews and Magazines in the Early Years of the Nineteenth Century, *p.* 651; 7. Hazlitt, *p.* 655; 8. Lamb, *p.* 658; 9. The Landors, Leigh Hunt, De Quincey, *p.* 663; 10. Jane Austen, *p.* 668; 11. Lesser Novelists, *p.* 671; 12. The Oxford Movement, *p.* 675; 13. The Growth of Liberal Theology, *p.* 680; 14. Historians: Writers on Ancient and Early Ecclesiastical History, *p.* 684; 15. Scholars, Antiquaries and Bibliographers, *p.* 687.

CHAPTER XIII

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY: PART II

1. Carlyle, *p.* 695; 2. The Tennysons, *p.* 700; 3. The Brownings, *p.* 705; 4. Matthew Arnold, Arthur Hugh Clough, James Thomson, *p.* 711; 5. The Rossettis, William Morris, Swinburne, FitzGerald, *p.* 716; 6. Lesser Poets of the Middle and Later Nineteenth Century: With Some Additions, *p.* 725; 7. The Prosody of the Nineteenth Century, *p.* 743; 8. Nineteenth-Century Drama, *p.* 751; 9. Thackeray, *p.* 760; 10. Dickens, *p.* 764; 11. The Political and Social Novel: Disraeli, Charles Kingsley, Mrs Gaskell, George Eliot, *p.* 776; 12. The Brontës, *p.* 786; 13. Other Novelists, *p.* 789; 14. George Meredith, Samuel Butler, Thomas Hardy, George Gissing, *p.* 804.

CHAPTER XIV

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY: PART III
AND POST-VICTORIAN LITERATURE

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Philosophers, <i>p.</i> 813; | 2. Historians, Biographers and Political Orators, <i>p.</i> 821; | 3. Critical and Miscellaneous Prose: John Ruskin and Others, <i>p.</i> 837; | 4. The Growth of Journalism, <i>p.</i> 855; | 5. University Journalism, <i>p.</i> 860; | 6. Caricature and the Literature of Sport, <i>p.</i> 862; | 7. The Literature of Travel 1700-1900, and Later, <i>p.</i> 868; | 8. The Literature of Science, <i>p.</i> 873; | 9. Anglo-Irish Literature, <i>p.</i> 887; | 10. Anglo-Indian Literature, <i>p.</i> 909; | 11. English-Canadian Literature, <i>p.</i> 917; | 12. The Literature of Australia and New Zealand, <i>p.</i> 922; | 13. South African Literature, <i>p.</i> 926; | 14. Education, <i>p.</i> 928; | 15. Changes in the Language since Shakespeare's Time, <i>p.</i> 936. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|-------------------------------|--|

CHAPTER XV

LATE-VICTORIAN AND POST-VICTORIAN
LITERATURE

- | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1. The Eighteen-Nineties and After, <i>p.</i> 944; | 2. Fiction, <i>p.</i> 948; | 3. The Drama, <i>p.</i> 979; | 4. Poetry, <i>p.</i> 1003; | 5. Miscellaneous Prose, <i>p.</i> 1030; | 6. Epilogue, <i>p.</i> 1049. |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|

INDEX, *p.* 1055