

Contents

Preface	ix
Introduction: The Problem of Reason	xiii
I. The Principles of Literary Criticism: Length of Duration and Continuance of Esteem	1
II. The Poet of Nature	28
Dramatic Character: Just Representation of General Nature	29
Tragicomedy: The Real State of Sublunary Nature	56
III. Aut Prodesse aut Delectare	72
→ The Unities and Dramatic Illusion: To Please	72
→ Morality and the Drama: To Instruct	103
IV. Faults Sufficient	127
V. Shakespeare and His Age	142
The Infancy of Nations	143
Shakespeare's Learning, Genius, and Originality	157
VI. Johnson and His Age	174
The Reviewers	174
The <i>Preface to Shakespeare</i>	187
Appendix A: Shakespeare's Supernatural Characters	199
Appendix B: Love in the Drama	204
Appendix C: A Play Read . . .	209
Selected Bibliography	213
Index	219