

**ENGLISH LITERATURE AND SOCIETY  
IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY**



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FORD LECTURES, 1903

By LESLIE STEPHEN



LONDON  
*DUCKWORTH and CO.*  
3 HENRIETTA STREET, W.C.  
1904

Edinburgh : T. and A. CONSTABLE, Printers to His Majesty

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TO HERBERT FISHER  
NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD

MY DEAR HERBERT,—I had prepared these Lectures for delivery, when a serious breakdown of health made it utterly impossible for me to appear in person. The University was then good enough to allow me to employ a deputy ; and you kindly undertook to read the Lectures for me. I have every reason to believe that they lost nothing by the change.

I need only explain that, although they had to be read in six sections, and are here divided into five chapters, no other change worth noticing has been made. Other changes probably ought to have been made, but my health has been unequal to the task of serious correction. The publication has been delayed from the same cause.

Meanwhile, I wish to express my gratitude for your services. I doubt, too, whether I should

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