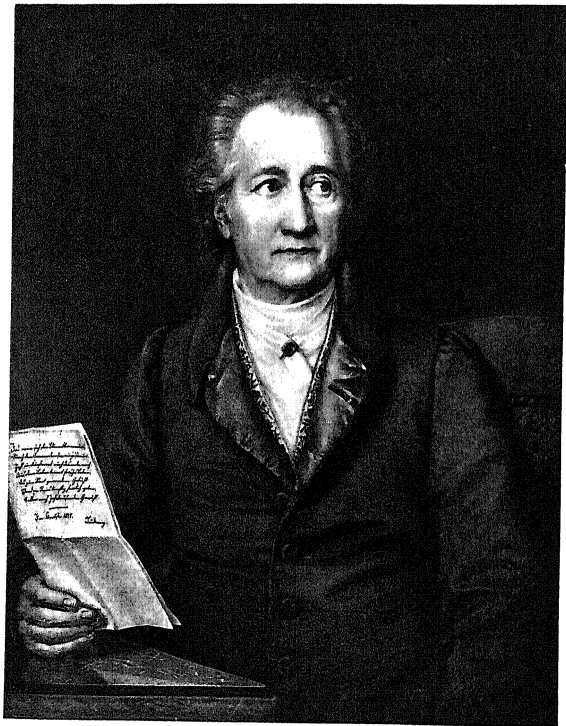


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J.W. von Goethe
from a portrait painted in 1828 by Stieler?

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GOETHE

REVIEWED AFTER SIXTY YEARS

BY

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PREFACE.

I PUBLISHED three papers on Goethe in the *Contemporary Review* for 1884. These are now with the kind consent of the Editor re-printed. They have been carefully revised throughout, have received large alterations and, especially in the latter part, considerable additions.

The number of persons among us who are called upon to devote some time to the study of Goethe's writings must be large, for it includes in the first place all who desire to acquire a knowledge of modern literature, and in the second place all those who desire to master the German language. Now, of all great writers there is scarcely one who more imperatively requires than Goethe to be read with some sort of companion or key. His writings are extremely various in style ; many of them are abstract, some of them are mysterious ; in the Second Part of *Faust* he positively plumes himself upon his own mysteriousness. Throughout he deviates from