

ESSAYS ON ART

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

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WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?

THOUGHTS ON THE WAR

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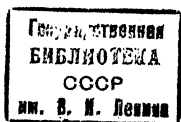
A. CLUTTON-BROCK

SECOND EDITION

METHUEN & CO. LTD.
36 ESSEX STREET W.C.
LONDON

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First Published . . . November 20th 1919
Second Edition . . . 1920



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PREFACE

THESE essays, reprinted from the *Times Literary Supplement* with a few additions and corrections, are not all entirely or directly concerned with art; but even the last one—Waste or Creation?—does bear on the question, How are we to improve the art of our own time? After years of criticism I am more interested in this question than in any other that concerns the arts. Whistler said that we could not improve it; the best we could do for it was not to think about it. I have discussed that opinion, as also the contrary opinion of Tolstoy, and the truth that seems to me to lie between them. If these essays have any unity, it is given to them by my belief that art, like other human activities, is subject to the will of man. We cannot cause men of artistic genius to be born; but we can provide a public, namely, ourselves, for the artist, who will encourage him to be an