

## LITTLE ESSAYS

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DRAWN FROM THE WRITINGS OF  
GEORGE SANTAYANA

BY  
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WITH THE COLLABORATION OF THE AUTHOR

LONDON  
CONSTABLE AND COMPANY LTD.

1920

## PREFACE

THE origin and purpose of this book can be briefly stated. Ever since I became acquainted with Mr. Santayana's writings, I have been in the habit of taking up now and then one or another of his volumes, finding in them, among many things that, being no philosopher, I did not understand, much writing like that of the older essayists on large human subjects, which seemed to me more interesting and in many ways more important than anything I found in the works of other contemporary writers. I soon fell into the way of copying out the passages that I liked, and thus I gradually formed a collection of little essays on subjects of general interest—art and literature and religion, and the history of the human mind as it has manifested itself at various times and in the works of different men of genius. As most of Mr. Santayana's books have not been reprinted in England, and are hardly known to those on this side of the Atlantic who might be interested in them, it occurred to me that it might be worth while to print these little essays. I asked Mr. Santayana if he would permit me to do this, sending him my collection for his consideration and possible approval. I sent it to him with some mis-giving, for I felt that it was rather an impertinent thing to cut up the life-work of a distinguished philosopher into a disconnected compilation of "elegant extracts." And then, as I re-read with more careful attention the books from which I had been making excerpts, I came to see that there

lay implicit in the material something of far greater significance, and that a much better use might be made of it. It became clear to me that the estimations and criticisms I had copied out were not mere personal and temperamental insights, but were bound up with, and dependent upon, a definite philosophy, a rational conception of the world and man's allotted place in it, which gave them a unity of interest and an importance far beyond that of any mere utterances of miscellaneous appreciation—any mere "adventures of the soul." Mr. Santayana is by race and temperament a representative of the Latin tradition: his mind is a Catholic one; it has been his aim to reconstruct our modern, miscellaneous, shattered picture of the world, and to build, not of clouds, but of the materials of this common earth, an edifice of thought, a fortress or temple for the modern mind, in which every natural impulse could find, if possible, its opportunity for satisfaction, and every ideal aspiration its shrine and altar. It was from this edifice of Reason that I had been taking the ornaments, and I now saw the much greater beauty they would have if they could appear in their appropriate setting. To sift, however, and rearrange these fragments, to reconstruct out of them some image in miniature of the original edifice from which I had detached them, was not a task for me to undertake—it could only be performed by the architect of the original building. Fortunately I succeeded in persuading Mr. Santayana to undertake this task; and while, therefore, the choice of these little essays is largely mine, their titles and order and arrangement, and the changes and omissions which have been made in the original texts are due, not to me, but to their author.

LOGAN PEARSALL SMITH.

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## NOTE

THE passages from Mr. Santayana's works are from the following:

*The Sense of Beauty.* New York. Charles Scribner's Sons. 1896.  
London. Constable & Co. (*S. of B.*)

*Interpretations of Poetry and Religion.* New York. Charles  
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II. Reason in Society. (*R. II.*)

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bridge, Harvard University. London. Humphrey Milford.  
1910. (*Three Poets.*)

*Spinoza's Ethics and "De Intellectus Emendatione."* Translated by  
A. Boyle, with Introduction by Professor G. Santayana.  
London. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd. 1910. Everyman's  
Library. (*Spinoza.*)

*Winds of Doctrine.* Studies in Contemporary Opinion. London.  
J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd. 1913. (*Winds.*)

*Egotism in German Philosophy.* London. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd.  
1916. (*Egotism.*)

1. Spirit the Judge. *S. of B.* pp. 3-4.
2. The Origin of Morals. (1) *Spinoza*, p. xv; (2) *R. IV.* p. 208;  
(3) *P.R.* IV. pp. 28-9.
3. Ideals. (1) *R. V.* p. 209; (2) *Three Poets*, p. 98; (3) *P.R.* p. 246.
4. Intellectual Ambition. *P.R.* pp. 1-3.
5. The Suppressed Madness of Sane Men. *R. I.* pp. 50-52.
6. The Birth of Reason. *R. I.* pp. 40, 44, 42, 45-7.
7. The Difference Reason makes. *R. I.* pp. 59, 57-8, 53-4, 60.
8. Body and Mind. *R. I.* pp. 205-13.
9. The Self. *R. IV.* pp. 8-10.
10. Self-Consciousness, Vanity, and Fame. *R. II.* pp. 140-46.
11. False Moral Perspectives. *R. I.* pp. 248-51, 253-5, 252.
12. Pain. *R. I.* pp. 224-5.
13. What People will put up with. *P.R.* p. 242.

14. Advantages of a Long Childhood. R. II. pp. 37, 36.
15. The Transitive Force of Knowledge. R. I. pp. 78, 81, 130.
16. Knowledge of Nature is Symbolic. (1) R. II. pp. 201-4; (2) *Egotism*, p. 6; (3) *Winds*, pp. 183-4.
17. Relativity of Science. R. V. pp. 307-9.
18. Mathematics and Morals. R. V. pp. 194-5.
19. Mind-Reading. R. I. pp. 152-4, 149-50, 175-6.
20. Knowledge of Character. R. I. pp. 155-8.
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22. Love. R. II. pp. 26-34.
23. Imaginative Nature of Religion. (1) R. III. pp. 3-6; (2) R. I. pp. 121-3; (3) R. III. p. 52; (4) *Egotism*, pp. 154-5.
24. Prosaic Misunderstandings. *P.R.* pp. v-ix.
25. The Haste to Believe. (1) R. III. p. 131; (2) R. III. p. 24.
26. Pathetic Notions of God. (1) R. III. p. 34; (2) R. IV. p. 175; (3) *P.R.* p. 47.
27. Greek Religion. *Three Poets*, pp. 63-4.
28. Original Christian Faith. *Winds*, pp. 33-8.
29. The Convert. *P.R.* pp. 85-6, 285, 88.
30. Christian Doctrine a Moral Allegory. *P.R.* pp. 90-98.
31. The Christian Epic. R. III. pp. 89-98.
32. Pagan Custom infused into Christianity. R. III. 99-104.
33. Christ and the Virgin. *S. of B.* pp. 189-91.
34. Orthodoxy and Heresy. *P.R.* pp. 57, 113-17.
35. Protestantism. (1) R. III. pp. 115-18; (2) *P.R.* 112-13; (3) R. III. pp. 125-6; (4) R. I. pp. 11-12.
36. Piety. R. III. pp. 179, 184-5, 189-92.
37. Spirituality. R. III. pp. 193-5.
38. Prayer. R. III. pp. 44-8.
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51. Mere Art. R. IV. pp. 211-12.
52. Costliness. *S. of B.* pp. 211-14.
53. The Stars. *S. of B.* pp. 100-106.
54. Music. (1) *S. of B.* pp. 69-70; (2) R. IV. pp. 45-9, 52-6; (3) *Egotism*, p. 161; (4) R. IV. pp. 56-60.
55. The Essence of Literature. R. IV. pp. 82-4.
56. The Need of Poetry. *P.R.* pp. 268-70.

57. Poetry and Philosophy. *Three Poets*, pp. 8, 10-14, 123-4, 142.
58. The Elements of Poetry. *P.R.* pp. 258-63.
59. Poetry and Prose. *R. iv.* pp. 99-104.
60. Primary Poetry. *R. iv.* pp. 87-94, 201-2.
61. The Supreme Poet. *Three Poets*, pp. 212-15.
62. Against Prying Biographers. *Three Poets*, p. 20.
63. The Dearth of Great Men. (1) *Winds*, pp. 20-22, 109; (2) *R. I.* pp. 9-10.
64. The Intellect out of Fashion. *Winds*, pp. 17-20, 23-4.
65. Essence and Existence. *R. I.* pp. 180-82, 171-2.
66. Malicious Psychology. *R. I.* pp. 84-6.
67. On "Esse est percipi." *R. I.* pp. 112-14.
68. Kant. (1) *Egotism*, pp. 54-60; (2) *R. I.* pp. 94-7.
69. Transcendentalism. (1) *R. v.* p. 312; (2) *R. I.* pp. 29-30; (3) *P.R.* pp. 219-20; (4) *R. I.* pp. 219-20; (5) *P.R.* p. 248; (6) *Egotism*, pp. 167-8.
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79. Romanticism. *Three Poets*, pp. 143-8, 196-9.
80. The Politics of Faust. *Three Poets*, pp. 181-5.
81. Emerson. (1) *P.R.* pp. 231-3; (2) *Winds*, pp. 197-200.
82. Shelley. *Winds*, pp. 158-60.
83. Browning. *P.R.* pp. 192-4, 199-207.
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86. Heathenism. *Egotism*, pp. 144-9.
87. Moral Neutrality of Materialism. *Three Poets*, pp. 32-4.
88. Value Irrational. *S. of B.* pp. 16-20.
89. Emotions of the Materialist. (1) *R. v.* pp. 89-94; (2) *Spinoza*, p. viii.
90. Sadness of Naturalism. (1) *R. I.* pp. 189-93; (2) *P.R.* p. 21; (3) *R. iv.* p. 169; (4) *Three Poets*, pp. 210-11.
91. Happiness in Disillusion. *P.R.* pp. 249-50; *R. II.* p. 195.
92. The True Place of Materialism. (1) *Three Poets*, p. 27; (2) *R. I.* pp. 16-17; (3) *Egotism*, p. 70.
93. Intuitive Morality. *R. v.* pp. 218-23.
94. Relativity of Values. (1) *Winds*, pp. 151-2; (2) *S. of B.* pp. 41-2; (3) *R. I.* p. 32.
95. Authority of Reason in Morals. *R. v.* pp. 231-2, 249-50, 244-5, 248, 266-8.
96. Pleasures Ingenuous. (1) *S. of B.* p. 39; (2) *R. iv.* pp. 168-9.

97. The Lower Senses. *S. of B.* pp. 66-8.  
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 99. The Worth of Pleasures and Pains. *R. I.* pp. 236-9, 55-6.  
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