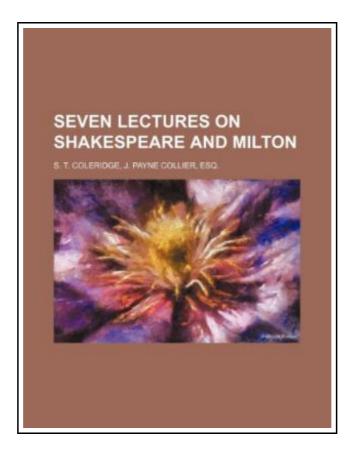
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(Juliet Mertz)

SEVEN LECTURES ON SHAKESPEARE AND MILTON



Rarebooksclub.com, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1856 Excerpt: .a Corinthian female. My note thus pursues the subject: -- In Shakespeare there are a few gross speeches, but it is doubtful to me if they would produce any ill effect on an unsullied mind; while in some modern plays, as well as in some modern novels, there is a systematic undermining of all morality: they are written in the true cant of humanity, that has no object but to impose; where virtue is not placed in action, or in the habits that lead to action, but, like the title of a book I have heard of, they are c a hot huddle of indefinite sensations/ In these the lowest incitements to piety are obtruded upon us; like an impudent rascal at a masquerade, who is well known in spite of his vizor, or known by it, and yet is allowed to be impudent in virtue of his disguise. In short, I appeal to the whole of Shakespeare's writings, whether his grossness is not the mere sport of fancy, dissipating low feelings by exciting the intellect, and only injuring while it offends Modern dramas injure in consequence of not offending. Shakespeare s worst passages are grossnesses against the degradations of our nature: those of our modern plays are too often delicacies directly in favour of them/ Such was my note, made nine years ago, and I have since seen every reason to adhere firmly to the opinions it expresses. In my next lecture I will...

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