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BY
ANDRÉ MAUROIS

Translated from the French
by
S. C. ROBERTS

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To
SIR J. J. THOMSON, O.M.
Master of Trinity College
Cambridge

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PREFACE

THIS book is based on six lectures given at Trinity College, Cambridge, in May 1928, on the Clark foundation. Mr E. M. Forster, who had given the lectures in the preceding year, had taken as his subject "Aspects of the Novel." Accordingly, I chose a complementary subject and, following his example, made no attempt to trace the history of a literary form.

The reader who wants such a history may find it either in Professor Waldo H. Dunn's *English Biography*, or in Mr Harold Nicolson's *Development of English Biography*, or, in a very brief but excellent form, in *From Plutarch to Strachey*, by Professor Cross, of Yale.

Perhaps I ought to explain why lectures delivered in English now appear in the form of a translation. When I found that the notes I had used at Trinity needed to be entirely re-cast for publication in book form, I chose to make the revision in French and Mr Roberts has been good enough to translate this revised version into English.

A. M.

February 1929.