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The Life and Letters of Leslie Stephen

Leslie Stephen (1832–1904), the founding Editor of the *Dictionary of National Biography*, was one of the leading literary figures of the nineteenth century. Stephen, the father of artist Vanessa Bell and writer Virginia Woolf, began his career writing for London publications before being appointed Editor of *The Cornhill Magazine* in 1881. The magazine's proprietor approached him with the idea for the *Dictionary*, and the first volume appeared in 1885 to much acclaim – but by 1889 Stephen had collapsed from overwork and finally stepped down from his editorial role in 1891. However, he continued to write extensively, not least publishing the three-volume *The English Utilitarians* (also reissued in this series) in 1900. This biography, published in 1906, was written by family friend and legal historian Frederic Maitland (1850–1906), who drew extensively from Stephen's letters to give a detailed account of the life of a most influential Victorian.

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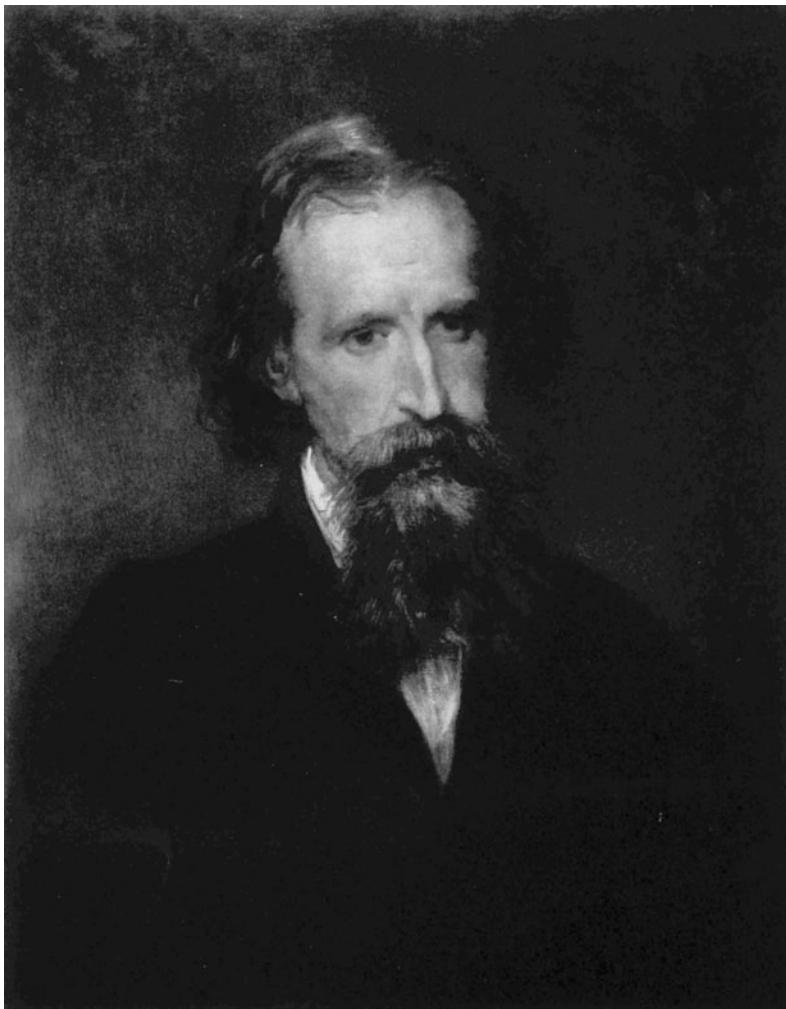
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Emery Walker Ph.D.

*Leslie Stephen
from a painting by G. F. Watts, R.A.*

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P R E F A C E

LESLIE STEPHEN left behind him many and good friends. Sixty at least of them have helped me in the making of this book. Some have supplied information, some have lent letters, some have written sentences or paragraphs which with due acknowledgment will appear hereafter. I hope and believe that I have thanked all of them severally and in private for their kindness and courtesy. If now in thanking them jointly and in public I do not name them, that is partly because they are so many, and partly because a prefatory parade of their names might raise hopes that this book will not fulfil.

F. W. M.

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[More information](#)

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. PARENTAGE	7
III. BOYHOOD (1832-1850)	22
IV. THE UNDERGRADUATE (1850-1854)	41
V. SKETCHES OF A DON AT CAMBRIDGE (1854-1864)	55
VI. THE PLAYGROUND OF EUROPE (1855-1894)	79
VII. THE TIMES AND THE WAR (1863-1865)	105
VIII. FREE-THINKING AND PLAIN-SPEAKING (1862-1865)	130
IX. JOURNALISM (1865-1871)	155
X. THE FIRST MARRIAGE (1865-1867)	179
XI. HOURS IN A LIBRARY (1867-1873)	199
XII. MORE HOURS IN A LIBRARY (1873-1875)	233
XIII. CORNHILL AND SCHRECKHORN (1871-1882)	257
XIV. WORDSWORTH'S ETHICS (1875-1878)	279
XV. THE SECOND MARRIAGE (1878)	310
XVI. AN ETHICAL TREATISE (1878-1882)	326
XVII. TRAMPS AND CONTRIBUTORS (1879-1891)	357
XVIII. THE STRUGGLE WITH THE DICTIONARY (1882-1891)	373
XIX. AN AGNOSTIC'S APOLOGY (1891-1895)	405

b

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-04817-0 - The Life and Letters of Leslie Stephen
 Frederic William Maitland
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

viii

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
XX. STUDIES OF A BIOGRAPHER (1895-1902)	432
XXI. THE SUNSET (1902-1904)	472
APPENDIX I. LESLIE STEPHEN'S WORKS	497
APPENDIX II. LIST OF THE SUNDAY TRAMPS	500
INDEX	501

PORTRAITS

	PAGE
LESLIE STEPHEN <i>Frontispiece</i> <i>From a painting by G. F. Watts, R.A.</i>	
MISS H. M. THACKERAY <i>From a painting by G. F. Watts, R.A.</i>	179
LESLIE STEPHEN <i>From a photograph by Julia Margaret Cameron</i>	197
MRS. HERBERT DUCKWORTH <i>From a photograph by Julia Margaret Cameron</i>	312
LESLIE STEPHEN. DECEMBER 1902	472

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