

## *Preface*

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itself, and is conditioned by the spirit and the methods of Jacobean and early Caroline criticism. On the other hand, the selection of the texts must be determined to some extent by my own conception of the critical development of the century, and this I have given in summary fashion in the general Introduction. The admirable work of Dr. Hamelius, Signor Benedetto Croce, Professor Saintsbury, Professors Gayley and Scott, M. Bourgoïn, M. Brunetière, and others, has by no means exhausted the fruitful field of seventeenth-century criticism. In the notes I have tried, by rigid compression and the exclusion, so far as possible, of philological and antiquarian detail, to give such information only as will be of service to the student of the history of criticism; but in such things, only 'marginal stuffings' and not 'unlearned drudgery'<sup>1</sup> can be avoided. The third volume will contain an index.

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