

flashier things give theirs, but one where that trouble is not thrown away, as it is in some cases, because it has saved its readers trouble the same proportion and has given them in abundance what they ought to want."—Professor GEORGE SAINTSBURY in the *Bookman*.

"Altogether 'William Makepeace Thackeray: a Biography,' is the best life of Thackeray extant. It is not an essay in criticism, but a straightforward narrative of the novelist's life. The facts are clearly stated and lucidly arranged, and we get a plain view of the jumble of episodes which constituted the higgledy-piggledy hotchpotch of Thackeray's hant-to-mouth life."—Mr. JAMES DOUGLAS in the *Star*.

"The documents are well handled, and Mr. Melville finds it necessary to interpolate relatively little of his own. He does not stand between us and the life-model. He performs the part rather of a telephone exchange operator, turning on the right voice at the right moment. This is done with admirable skill, and we seem almost to catch up the veritable voice from the past—that of Thackeray telling his own life story."—*Guardian*.

"Mr. Lewis Melville's highest qualification as a biographer is that he never intrudes between his hero and his reader, and wherever possible allows his hero to speak for himself and explain himself in his own words. One of the great charms of Thackeray's life and character is its transparency—that it needs so little explanation. But then how easily this charm might have been tarnished by a consequential meddling narrator! Mr. Melville feels and preserves it."—*Manchester Guardian*.

"Le succès qu' obtient une nouvelle, minutieuse et très remarquable biographie du célèbre romancier est donc aussi légitime que compréhensible ; on peut et on doit se réjouir du retentissement qu' obtient en ce moment l'excellent ouvrage de M. Melville, c'est là vraiment un modèle de biographie, sagace, savant, et agréable à la fois, écrite avec talent, composée avec soin et où toutes les données précises concernant l'existence du maître et la production de son œuvre se trouvent au grand complet."—M. STANISLAS RZEWUSKI in the *Siccle*.

"Mr. Melville's biography is informed by a thorough knowledge of Thackerayana and Thackerayan literature which probably no other living writer possesses. The author is an expert in Thackeray, and he has worked out the evolution of a great literary genius with a penetrating judgment and a profoundly sympathetic touch. For the bibliography alone, which fills half the second volume, all students of the Victorian literature must be grateful. . . . The memoir is written in the best of taste, the manner is interesting and easy, and the criticism unobtrusive but illuminating."—Mr. SIDNEY LOW in the *Standard*.

"The text of the work brings into its well-digested narrative a great number of points which, without changing the older portrait in any noticeable way, substantially enrich it, and confirm the book's reputation as the best that a scholar could consult who wished to be informed of the facts of Thackeray's career and the essentials of his character, as distinguished from the impressions made upon observers less studious or less fully informed. The many admirable illustrations with which the volumes are furnished are rich in personal and topographical interest, and the work as a whole is one which will be prized by every lover of literature both as an invaluable storehouse of facts and as a biography not unworthy of its subject."—*Scotsman*.

JOHN LANE, THE BODLEY HEAD, VIGO STREET, LONDON, W