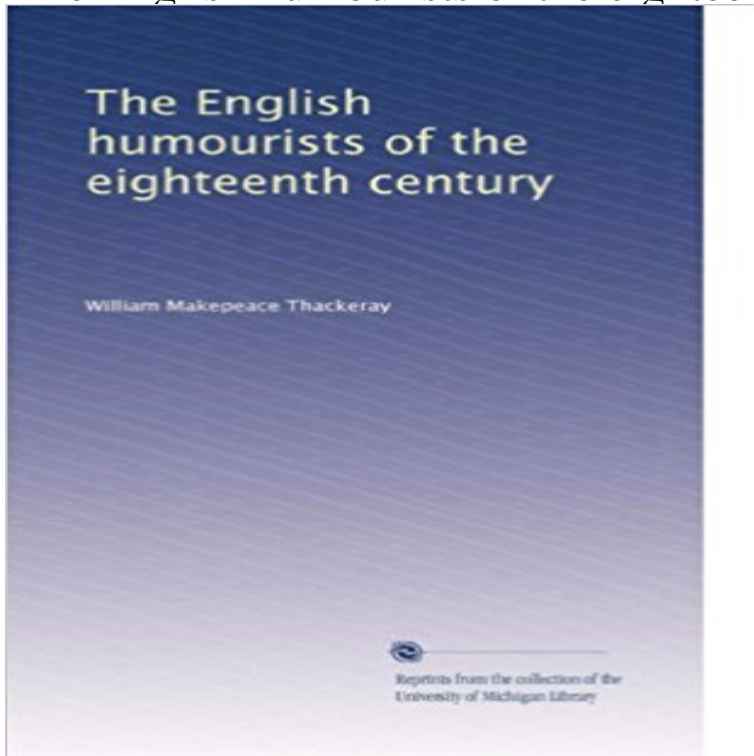


The English humourists of the eighteenth century



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1870 edition. Excerpt: ...News came that the Queen was dead. Stator Jove, and Phoebus, king of verse, were left there, hovering to this day, over the votive tablet. The picture was never got any more than the spoons and dishes--the inspiration ceased--the verses were not wanted--the ambassador wasnt wanted. Poor Mat was recalled from his embassy, suffered disgrace along with his patrons, lived under a sort of cloud ever after, and disappeared in Essex. When deprived of all his pensions and emoluments, the hearty and generous Oxford pensioned him. They played for gallant stakes--the bold men of those days--and lived and gave splendidly. Johnson quotes from Spence a legend, that Prior, after spending an evening with Harley, St. John, Pope, and Swift, would go off and smoke a pipe with a couple of friends of his, a soldier and his wife, in Long Acre. Those who have not read his late excellencys poems should be warned that they smack not a little of the conversation of his Long Acre friends. Johnson speaks slightly of his lyrics; but with due deference to the great Samuel, Priors seem to me amongst the easiest, the richest, the most charmingly humourous of English lyrical poems.¹ Horace is always in his mind, and his song, and his philosophy, his good sense., his happy easy turns and melody, his loves, and his Epicureanism, bear a great resemblance to that most delightful and accomplished master. In reading his works, one is ¹ His epigrams hare the genuine sparkle: The Remedy Worse Than The Disease. I sent for RaJcliff; was so ill, That other doctors gave me over: He felt my pulse, prescribed a pill, And I was likely to recover. But when the wit began to wheeze, And wine

had warmed the politician, Cured yesterday
of my disease, I died last night of my...

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