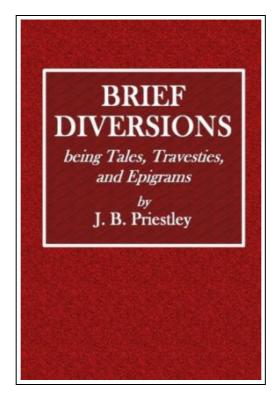
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BRIEF DIVERSIONS: BEING TALES, TRAVESTIES, AND EPIGRAMS (PAPERBACK)



Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. THE ART OF PARODY. I suppose most schoolboys with early leanings towards verse-writing begin by essaying the gentle art of parody. In my time a favourite subject was Hiawatha; the meter was so simple-almost any remark might be turned by those who had a slight acquaintance with the juggling of words (as in Latin elegiac writing, for instance!) into Hiawatha meter. And there was no trouble with rhymes, a most important point. Not that we achieved anything beyond a sort of doggerel screed; but we thought it was fine stuff, and for our tender years perhaps it was not so bad-some of it. It is a curious sidelight upon the workings of the human intelligence how in literary effort so many first turn their hands to attempt the most difficult forms of writing. Take the short story. Every literary agent tells the painful tale of the loaded post-bag, full of the most impossible documents, among which the wheat is very, very hard to find. So many hundreds of thousands of people appear to think themselves blessed with the gift of short-story writing-and promptly commit to paper arrant nonsense. It seems so easy, though in reality it is a deal less difficult to write a passably readable novel. Just so with parody-and the proof lies partly in the small number of volumes of parody that find their way out of publishers offices. I say partly, because this paucity is no doubt also due to the lack of public appreciation of this kind of writing. It is, therefore, with all the greater pleasure that one welcomes Mr. J. B. Priestley s delightful little book, Brief Diversions. Not only does he tackle the poets...



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