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Leslie Stephen

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### Studies of a Biographer

Sir Leslie Stephen (1832–1904) was founding Editor of the *Dictionary of National Biography (DNB)*. Also a writer on philosophy, ethics, and literature, he was educated at Eton, King's College, London, and Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he remained as a Fellow and a tutor for a number of years. Though a sickly child, he later became a keen and successful mountaineer, taking part in first ascents of nine peaks in the Alps. These biographical essays and critiques were written originally for the *National Review* and published as two two-volume sets in 1898 and 1902. These vignettes show that, despite the years of preparing material for the *DNB* to its particular editorial requirements, Stephen was still a master of the finely crafted depiction of the essence of his chosen subjects. Volume 3 includes essays on Donne, John Ruskin, the Brownings' letters and, in complete contrast, a chapter considering the pleasures of walking.

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VOLUME 3

LESLIE STEPHEN



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LESLIE STEPHEN.

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