PREFACE

The subject of this book has not, as far as I know, been treated before. Though the influence of Greek fiction upon the fiction of the Renaissance has been noticed at some length by Dunlop and by Professor Warren; and though Herr Brunhuber, Herr Oeffering, and Mr. Moody have observed a portion of Sidney's indebtedness to the Greek Romances; yet no other attempt has been made, I believe, to disengage the characteristics of Greek Romance and to trace them into English fiction of any period. The present attempt results in the discovery of a distinct vein of influence in Elizabethan literature, and in some interesting specific discoveries: viz., that Heliodorus and Longus are respectively a secondary and a primary source of Shakespeare; that Lyly's "Euphues" probably occupies a place in a long tradition that goes back to Greek Romance; and that both Sidney and Greene were steeped in the matter and the style of Greek fiction. The further discovery that Sidney went so far as to remodel his "Arcadia" upon the pattern of Heliodorus's narrative structure would have been impossible but for Mr. Dobell's find of manuscripts of the "Old Arcadia." To all my known predecessors I make grateful acknowledgment, both here and in the text.

The present study has been confined to the five chief writers of Elizabethan fiction,—Lyly, Sidney, Greene, Nash, and Lodge. Minor writers like Sanford and Warner, even when known to
have used the Greek Romances, have received only passing mention; nor has the Catalogue of the British Museum been searched for titles suggestive of Greek Romance. My bibliography, thus, does not profess to be complete; it was compiled upon a frankly utilitarian basis, and contains very few titles not actually referred to in the book. With the same design of usefulness to the reader, the Index has been made rather full.

I am under obligations to the authorities of the Libraries of Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, and the University of Michigan, for many courtesies. To the owner of the "Clifford" and "Ashburnham" Manuscripts of the "Old Arcadia," who prefers to remain unnamed, and to Mr. A. T. Porter of London, both of whom most kindly allowed me the free use of their property, my special acknowledgments are due. My friend Dr. S. M. Tucker, Professor of English at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, gave me indispensable assistance in seeing this book through the press. To Professor A. H. Thordike, of Columbia University, I am obliged for many excellent suggestions.

Professor Woodberry was "the onlie begetter" of the studies which have at last issued in this book; and my indebtedness to him is greater than I can express or he would own. Professor J. B. Fletcher, of Columbia University, has given freely his valuable advice and criticism, as well as a personal interest and encouragement without which my work, however auspiciously begun, would hardly have been completed.

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