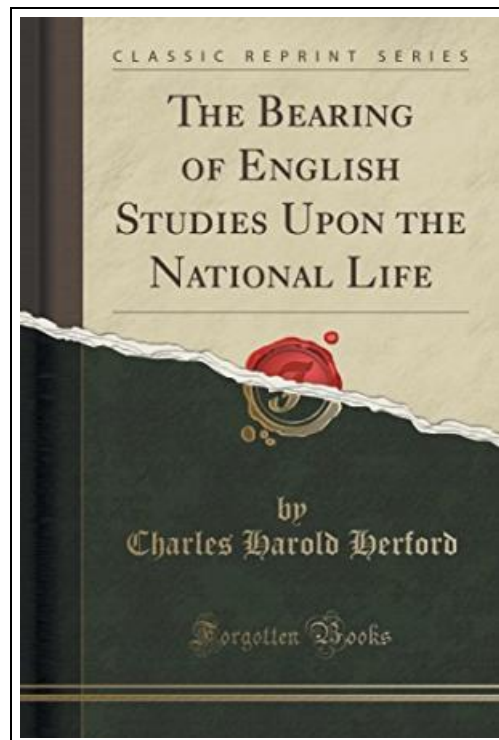


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Forgotten Books, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Excerpt from The Bearing of English Studies Upon the National Life It is clear that in all this we have a mass of strictly historical information and further, that the abundance and precision of it are not due merely to the fact that Chaucer had extraordinary gifts of eye and style. They are due mainly to the fact that he was writing as a poet, not as a historian, to delight and amuse his hearers, not to inform them. He would not have been so brimfull of instruction for us if he had aimed at instructing his readers. What should they need to be told of an everyday matter like the pilgrimage to Canterbury They had all probably been wayfarers along the same well-trodden road and put up at the same familiar hostelries. If Chaucer had been a chronicler he would have disposed of the matter, if he mentioned it at all, in a simple entry such as this 1385 In April of this year men went on pilgrimage to Canterbury, according to their wont. They had much joyous pastime on the way, and gave a goodly supper at the Tabard, on their return, to one of their company who had best acquitted him in that sport. In other words, a host of things get left out of the chronicler s record because they are common and matter of course, which are taken up into the poet s because, for him, the common ways of men and their matter-oi-course habits and usages are full of the zest of life; common as blood and breath, and matter of course as the beating of the heart. History for the most part records only the salient...



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