

EDITORIAL NOTE

This edition reprints the most authoritative editions of Thomas Holcroft's novels and selected plays. In all cases, the copy text is the first published text of each novel (usually the only edition that appeared). Where editions revised or authorized by the author are known to exist, errors in the copy text have been corrected against these editions.

These fully reset editions of Holcroft's novels and selected plays present the texts in type-facsimile style, including para-textual features. Thus, volume divisions are marked by the original wording, and the style of the original title-pages for each volume is reproduced. Rules (for instance, for separating an epigraph from the text) have been retained, although they have been standardized as uniform single lines. Original spelling and italicization, including ligature diphthongs (œ, æ) have been retained throughout this edition, as has original punctuation (excepting the use of quotation marks). Spelling has not been standardized; thus irregular spellings occur and inconsistent spelling may be found within a single volume.

Following the principle of minimal editorial interference, emendation is light. Thus, the editors have interfered as little as possible with the texts' original spelling, punctuation, accentuation or capitalization, even where inconsistent or idiosyncratic (as, for instance, in the case of foreign words and names). Obvious printer's errors and discrepancies have been silently corrected, while inconsistent or idiosyncratic spelling, punctuation or other usage that would otherwise obscure the meaning of the text have been emended without notice. However, all corrections and emendations are recorded in a list of Silent Corrections at the end of each volume. The texts follow modern usage for quotations (using a single set of opening and closing quotation marks), whilst the eighteenth-century long *s* has been replaced by the modern *s*. The only other unrecorded corrections are those which would have disappeared anyway as a result of resetting the original text (including end-of-line hyphens and typographical errors in running heads).

Unfamiliar word usage, literary allusion or historical and biographical reference will be annotated in editorial endnotes, which will also identify quotations,

and supply relevant information concerning sources, archaisms and foreign words. Full names and dates of persons appearing in editorial notes are given for the first citation only, in each volume. Likewise, editorial endnotes provide full bibliographical details of sources cited or referred to only for the first citation, in each volume.

Epigraphs and quotations have been identified throughout; where identification was not possible, this is noted as such. Inaccurate quotations are allowed to stand, with the words 'adapted' or 'loosely adapted' added. In drama and poetry referencing, the division and line numbers of the standard editions have been used, unless otherwise indicated. In cases where they exist in many editions, prose citations are identified by volume, book, chapter, section, letter, etc. as appropriate, but without page numbering. Foreign quotations are translated, unless otherwise stated, by the volume editor, or, in the case of classical texts, the editor of the relevant volume in the Loeb edition.

Original page numbers are placed in square brackets in the page header. A solidus (slash-mark) in the text indicates a page-break in the original text. Where the page-break in the original coincided with a word-break, the solidus does not replace the hyphen, but is placed at the end of that word. In those cases in which end-of-line hyphens have been dropped as a result of resetting, decisions about hyphenation have been taken on the basis of usage elsewhere in the works. Where such usage is inconsistent, decisions have been taken on the authority of the *Oxford English Dictionary*; and, where the *OED* allows both hyphenated and unhyphenated forms, according to whether the work uses predominantly light or heavy hyphenation. Cross-referencing within and between volumes of this edition is made to the pagination in the present Pickering & Chatto edition.

Symbols used in this Edition

The following symbols have been used in the reset texts of the works, in the appendices, and in all editorial material:

- / Within the authorial text, indicates an original page-break; in editorial matter, indicates a line-break in a quotation.
- // Within the authorial text, indicates an end of page followed by a blank page.
- [] Encloses an editorial insertion, ellipsis or parenthesis; when enclosing page numbers, indicates original pagination.
- < > Encloses cancelled matter.