

Henry Esmond



by William Makepeace Thackeray

A nineteenth-century masterpiece, this full-scale novel of Queen Anne's England is widely regarded as Thackeray's most perfect work. In it, he recreates a golden age, a classic battle, and the passionate love of a man struggling against the curse of illegitimacy.

*With an introduction by
Lionel Stevenson*



complete and unabridged



a bantam classic

Conty
Paris 61.



WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY

was born in Calcutta, India, in 1811.
He was educated at the Charterhouse
School and Trinity College, Cambridge.

He tentatively studied both law and
art until, through gambling and extravagance,
he lost most of his inheritance.

Thackeray earned a precarious living with
his pen until *Vanity Fair* made him rich
and famous. His good fortune was shadowed,
however, by the hopeless insanity of his
beautiful wife. The woman Thackeray loved
but could never marry is mirrored in his
fascinating portrayal of *Beatrice Esmond*.

Thackeray's insistence on showing his
characters with all their faults and passions
earned him condemnation from Victorian
romanticists. Now, a hundred years later,
he still stands firmly as one of England's
most important realistic novelists.