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**THOUGHTS FROM GLADSTONE**

# THOUGHTS

*FROM THE WRITINGS AND SPEECHES*

OF

# WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE

COMPILED BY SPECIAL PERMISSION AND EDITED BY

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## PREFACE.

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IN the preparation of this volume, it has been the Editor's object to secure as far as possible an adequate representation of the manifold intellectual, social, and religious interests which have engaged the attention of Mr. Gladstone through his long and distinguished career. It has been given to few men in the world's history to be set in the forefront of mental activity for a space of sixty years. Yet this has been the case with the ex-Premier. While his fellow-countrymen may be divided on the wisdom and expediency of his political projects, all may and do without exception cordially unite in admiring the man, and marveling at that elasticity of intellect which has enabled him to write and speak with grace and power upon such a vast and cosmopolitan range of subjects as is indicated in the ensuing pages. From this volume, political and controversial subjects have been excluded; and if there be found in the course of it a few extracts from political speeches, it will not be because they have any political or party aspect,

but because their bearing is of a general character, and one that may be accepted by men of all political parties.

Great pains have been taken in the selection of these extracts ; and many of them have been drawn from widely scattered volumes, periodicals, and pamphlets which are now practically inaccessible to the general public.

Those who have not hitherto grasped the versatility of Mr. Gladstone's mind, and those who have not had an opportunity of reading many of his earlier and later utterances, will, the Editor believes, welcome this volume of Selections ; while all the myriads of Englishmen here and beyond sea, whose hearts glow with pride at the mention of their great compatriot's name, will, he likewise believes, be glad to have in a compact form these memorials of his eloquence and wisdom.

The Editor and Publishers desire to thank Mr. Gladstone for his kindness in sanctioning this volume, and the cordial favour with which he has regarded the undertaking.

G. B. S.

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