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PREFACE

THE Addresses collected in this volume have been delivered on various occasions during the last twenty-five years. They deal with diverse subjects, and have only a negative connection with one another: none of them trenches upon the domain of controversial politics.

Though by nature (as I believe) of a pacific temperament, I have been constrained by the force of circumstances to divide nearly the whole of my active life between two of the most contentious of professions. A man who spends most of his days and nights in the Law Courts and the House of Commons has a special need for the soothing and cleansing influences of literature and scholarship. His time for reading, still more for research, is of necessity limited; but there is nothing, even in the absorbing demands of a dual vocation, that requires him to abate his interest either in the ancient masterpieces or in the newest phases of the Arts. And if he takes advantage of such opportunities as present themselves from time to time to put forward opinions

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and judgments upon literary and academic themes, his critics will in justice remember—what he is not likely himself to forget—that such productions are from the nature of the case the work, not of an expert, but of an amateur.

I have added some appreciations of the lives and characters of distinguished men whose deaths have been the occasion of public sorrow.

In the compilation and revision of the volume I have been more indebted than I can say to the wise counsels and helping hand of my old friend, Mr. Edmund Gosse.

H. H. A.

January 1918.

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