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WENDELL PHILLIPS:

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1890

THE AGITATOR.

BY

CARLOS MARTYN,

*Editor of "American Reformers," and author of "John Milton," "Wm. E. Dodge," etc.*

WITH AN

APPENDIX

CONTAINING THREE OF THE ORATOR'S MASTERPIECES, NEVER BEFORE  
PUBLISHED IN BOOK FORM, VIZ.:

"THE LOST ARTS."

"DANIEL O'CONNELL."

"THE SCHOLAR IN A REPUBLIC."

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES.

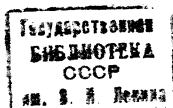
FUNK & WAGNALLS.

NEW YORK:  
18 & 20 ASTOR PLACE. 1890

LONDON:  
44 FLEET STREET.

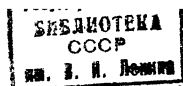
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## PREFACE.

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WENDELL PHILLIPS was a citizen of the twentieth century sent as a sample to us of the nineteenth. There is not in biography another character more profoundly interesting and instructive. Whether judged by the length, variety, influence, or genius of his life, this man was unique. Fredrika Bremer said long ago : " The anti-slavery struggle will be the romance of American history." The Swedish novelist foretold that our future Sir Walter Scott would find in this " debatable ground" the richest materials for his " Sixty Years Hence." But where was there in the " irrepressible conflict " a more heroic figure than Mr. Phillips ?

Nor was his an isolated advocacy. He identified himself as inseparably with every other reform of the age. There was no exception. He stood, " The Admirable Crichton " of progress. Would any one understand this century ? Would he equip himself for usefulness ? Would he catch fire from contact with one of the purest, ablest, most inspiring of men ? Let him study and emulate the career of Wendell Phillips.

Biography has been defined as the story of a single soul. But the narrative becomes complex, since in its passage a single soul touches many other souls.

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Hence biography expands into history. The problem is to preserve the biography in the history—to make the individual stand out in the midst of the crowd. This difficulty is intensified when the life portrayed, like the shuttle in weaving, plays into the very warp and woof of the times.

In the case of Mr. Phillips, the effort has been to give only so much of the wider view as should make his career comprehensible. In these pages everything has been subordinated to the setting forth of the man in his essential features, clean-cut and pronounced. Under this rule, a mass of interesting matter has been set resolutely aside. Many related persons have been passed over, or dismissed with a mere mention. Nothing has been admitted save what would individualize, animate, and reproduce the great reformer. This is a biography, not a history. Surely, a man should be the hero of his own life.

A vast amount of new material only just now accessible, yet essential to a just estimate of the orator, and suggestive and illustrative of his mental and personal habits, will be found within these covers, giving a near and intimate view of him. The account of his earlier and mid-career is especially full.

One great merit we may confidently claim for this volume. It abounds in copious quotations from Mr. Phillips's utterances. He is given the opportunity to state his position in his own words on every one of the great issues in which he was interested. Hence it is in some sense a handbook of his opinions.

Here are principles for the philosophical, facts for the matter-of-fact, extracts from speeches which made and vocalized history, for the admirers of elo-