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COLLECTION
OF
BRITISH AUTHORS

TAUCHNITZ EDITION.

VOL. 2318.

GEORGE ELIOT'S LIFE.

EDITED BY HER HUSBAND J. W. CROSS.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.—VOL. I.

“OUR FINEST HOPE IS FINEST MEMORY.”

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GEORGE ELIOT'S LIFE

AS

RELATED IN HER LETTERS
AND JOURNALS.

ARRANGED AND EDITED BY HER HUSBAND

J. W. C R O S S.

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IN FOUR VOLUMES.—VOL. I.

L E I P Z I G

BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1885.

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PREFACE.



WITH the materials in my hands I have endeavoured to form an *autobiography* (if the term may be permitted) of George Eliot. The life has been allowed to write itself in extracts from her letters and journals. Free from the obtrusion of any mind but her own, this method serves, I think, better than any other open to me, to show the development of her intellect and character.

In dealing with the correspondence, I have been influenced by the desire to make known the woman, as well as the author, through the presentation of her daily life.

On the intellectual side there remains little to be learnt by those who already know George Eliot's books. In the twenty volumes which she wrote and published in her lifetime, will be found her best and ripest thoughts. The letters now published throw light on another side of her nature—