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## PREFACE

THE object of these few sketches is to elucidate the chief influences for social and industrial reform that have been active in England in the past, and, in one or two cases, to show their relation to problems of the present. In writing of the men from whom these influences proceeded, I have tried to let them, where possible, speak for themselves. If, therefore, it should seem that too large a portion of the text in certain places is in inverted commas, it is because the present writer recognizes that the words of the reformers he quotes are much better than his own.

I feel also that, in several cases, the sketch I have given of a reformer's life and thought is exceedingly inadequate. In the case of Ruskin it is hopelessly so. Nevertheless, I have tried to point out, without obtrusiveness, one thing throughout this book: that social reform of any kind, to be effective, must proceed from a change in the individual himself as well as a change in his material environment.

H. DE B. G.

*Nottingham,  
March, 1892*

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## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

A FEW verbal changes have been made in the second edition, but it is otherwise the same as the first.

H. DE B. G.

*March, 1902*