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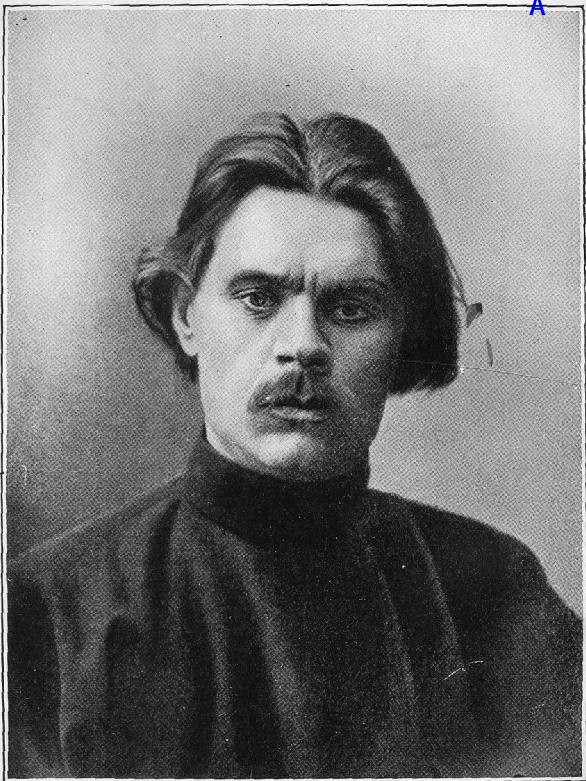


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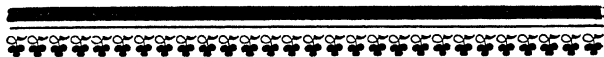
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INTRODUCTION



T CANNOT BE DENIED that the academic expression "Literature" is an ill-favoured word. It involuntarily calls up the Antiithesis of Life, of Personal Experience, of the Simple Expression of Thought and Feeling. With what scorn does Verlaine exclaim in his Poems :

" And the Rest is only Literature."

The word is not employed here in Verlaine's sense. The Impersonal is to be excluded from this Collection. Notwithstanding its solid basis, the modern mode of the Essay gives full play of personal freedom in the handling of its matter.