

## PRELIMINARY.

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IN the publication of the work here presented to the reader, the author has been actuated by no selfish purpose. The thought of principal importance in issuing a book for general perusal should be—what will be the probable influence it will exert: is it trashy in its nature, or vicious in its spirit; will it offend or corrupt the moral sense, or to any extent injure the intellect, by debasing it with impure thoughts and demoralizing imagery? Or, on the contrary, is it, in design and execution, adapted, by its portrayal of character, to give a winning beauty to virtue, and to exert a controlling influence for good on the mind of the Reader? Is it, in a word, such a production, that parents can place it in the hands of their children with the conviction that, while they will be interested and informed, they will receive no detriment from its perusal? The author, conscious of his rectitude in this regard, leaves his work to win its way to public favor, rather by its intrinsic character and moral value, than by any pretensions to literary excellence.