

Preface

The books of Henry van Dyke are well known to many classes of readers. He has worked in various literary forms: stories, essays, criticism, and poetry. The unity of his work is found in the individuality of a style marked by simplicity, clearness, and directness, and in the manifest influence of "a human aim,—to cheer, console, purify, or ennoble the life of the people."

In making this little year-book of selections, the suggestion of which is entirely my own, I have not sought to illustrate literary qualities, so much as to bring out the dominant note of human friendliness and comradeship, which runs through the writings of an author who knows books well, but who cares more for people.

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G. S. W.

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