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## PREFACE

*This little volume deals with certain facts and forces in connection with both our individual lives and our common social life. It deals with the latter first. It will have principally three types of readers. The first, that large class of open and fair-minded people who love justice and honour, who believe in the great principle of equal opportunities for all and special privileges for none, who believe that one great class of people are not to be used simply as a grist for another class, who believe that there is nothing just, or wise, or safe, much less common-sense, in permitting a social and political state where there are little groups of men and families grown so enormously rich and powerful that their very riches and privileges and excesses become a menace to their own welfare, as well as to that of the people at large and to the very State itself.*

*The second, that class, perhaps comparatively small, possibly already much larger than we realize, whose members have been so long schooled in privilege on their own part, or from their ancestors, or from their associations, that they come actually to believe that they in some way are better than the rest of the people, that somehow it was, or is intended, that they be sort of custodians of the welfare*