

PREFACE

No reader of these pages will be more conscious of the defects of the work than the author. Its brokenness of construction, its unevenness of style, its lack of the touch of the literary expert, are all too apparent. But the facts surrounding its growth and construction through many years, its appearing as a bundle of selections from the accumulations during the course of slow maturing to a final conclusion, the attempt to outline a system that would require volumes, the presence of chapters that should have companion chapters to complete but which space has prohibited, must account for much.

The reader is asked to take into consideration what may seem to be novelties in psychology, but to withhold final judgment until the basis, the principles and the bearing on historical development, can be elaborated in another volume. If it has to be rejected, it will be but as scaffolding not affecting the building.

The detailed references to Methodism, whatever effect they may have on Methodists, must not be taken as sectarian in purpose, but as the statement of one historical illustration of a common development, the one among many with which the author was most familiar. The aim is to bring out the working of a common factor in