

PREFACE

IN view of the circumstances surrounding the writing and publication of this volume a brief word of preface is fitting.

John Hays Gardiner was born at Gardiner, Maine, April 6, 1863, the son of Colonel John William Tudor Gardiner of the Class of 1836 and Ann Elizabeth (Hays) Gardiner, and the grandson of Robert Hallowell Gardiner of the Class of 1801. He was admitted to Harvard from J. P. Hopkinson's private school in July, 1881, and received his A.B. in 1885. The two following years he spent at the Harvard Law School, when health and strength failed him. Five years variously occupied in private tutoring and foreign travel, with frequent periods of complete rest at home, were necessary to restore him to an active life.

In 1892 he began a connection with Harvard University that was to last almost continuously for twenty-one years. From September, 1892, until September, 1900, he was Instructor in English in Harvard College; and from September, 1900, to June, 1910, Assistant Professor of English; then, after a year devoted to writing, he entered the service of the Harvard Alumni Association to assume the editorship of the *Harvard Alumni Bulletin*, a position which he held at the time of his death in Boston on May 14, 1913.

His active interests were not confined to the limits of his assigned tasks. One of the earliest and most persistent advocates of the necessity of better English com-