

PREFATORY NOTE

FRANCE inspired this little book, but yet is in no sense responsible for it, or for the idea of its production, or for any of its blemishes and shortcomings.

There is here no attempt at comprehensiveness, and no pretence that these pages are in any way conclusive, definitive, or authoritative. No other claim is made for the pictures, drawn and written, which are presented here than that they record a few of the entirely independent and unbiassed impressions formed by two English officers who were very kindly permitted by the French authorities to see something of the French Army in the field. Naturally, such personal notes cannot be really adequate or worthy of their subject from the point of view of any Frenchman. But the unprejudiced outsider's view is sometimes not without its uses among other outsiders; and if these cursory impressions of a few aspects of France in

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