

study of the given foreign institution in its own country, or whether he has derived it only from a newspaper or an encyclopædia. Most of all, let the reader be tolerant with regard to views on the reader's own country. There exists no greater fallacy than the inference, that because a man is an Englishman he must necessarily know all about England. An Englishman *may* know much about England; or an American about America. But it does not necessarily follow at all. As a matter of fact, it is a very rare exception. Knowledge, difficult enough in the inorganic world, is increasingly difficult in the organic; and with regard to human institutions we are still in the infancy of true knowledge.

May the following pages contribute to a better understanding of nations, and so to the promotion of the noblest aims of civilization.

This book is the outgrowth of a suggestion made to me by an American friend, Mr. Curtis Brown, London correspondent of a distinguished American newspaper, who, I trust, would gladly testify to my often-expressed admiration for his fellow-countrymen, notwithstanding the criticisms I have ventured to offer here.

EMIL REICH.

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December 25, 1903.