

PREFACE

IN the space at my disposal it has not been possible to do more than trace the outlines of a vast subject. But I have sought to indicate the contents of these Literatures so that the reader may appreciate the values and relationships of the various books and, if he should turn to the works themselves, read them by the help of modern scholarship.

The importance of the Sacred Literatures for the study of comparative theology and the historical development of religion gives this sketch its *raison d'être*.

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