

INTRODUCTION.

THE writer of "My Friend Bill" has made no attempt at a literary production, and he trusts that his readers will not view his first effort from any such standpoint. He believes that a story may contain interest even though the strict rules of literature are not followed. To write by rule is to lay down a plan and make everything fit to that plan. "My Friend Bill" is a life-story, and no rule can be laid down to fit a life. Each day brings forth a change, and the rules of yesterday may be broken by the happenings of to-day. "My Friend Bill" is a human story, in which the heart rather than the intellect guided the pen. That which pleases the intellect is a passing pleasure—that which touches the heart is a lasting impression.

The author has a kindly feeling for all those who see only the seamy side of life, and no patience with those whose selfishness would crush the hopes and ambitions of the "under man."

In the asides of his story he has tried to show up the shams and fallacies of the day in their true light, and has aimed to prove that true happiness is only found in doing justice to our fellows. The piling up