

Preface to the English Translation

History is a delightful study. It brings before our minds the past, with all that has made it memorable. We behold, passing and repassing, men struggling one with another. We see life as it actually existed. When history takes the form of biography, it becomes still more interesting and one of the best aids to education. Men naturally seek the good and noble. In reading the lives of those who have made themselves leaders, we are incited to imitate them. Lives of such men serve to elevate and strengthen our character. The difficulties they encountered, and the means they employed to overcome them, are vividly placed before us, and we realize the endurance and strong will which enabled them to persevere until the desired object was attained. The nearer to our own times a man has lived, the greater is our interest in him. His world and his surroundings have been much the same as ours. We recognize the same men and women, and readily discover the qualities that gave them honour and success in life. Publishers acknow-