

## PREFACE.

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If anywhere temptation is yielded to and the action is dragged out of its course in order to serve an opinion of my own; if anywhere, for that object, a character is made to think or to speak inconsistently with himself and his surroundings, therein must be recognized my want of skill, not my deliberate intention; the failure of my design, not its fulfilment.

MONA CAIRD.

HAMPSTEAD, March 2, 1889.