

PREFACE

THIS series of books owes its existence to the generosity of Messrs. Hart, Schaffner, and Marx, of Chicago, who have shown a special interest in trying to draw the attention of American youth to the study of economic and commercial subjects, and to encourage the best thinking of the country to investigate the problems which vitally affect the business world of to-day. For this purpose they have delegated to the undersigned Committee the task of selecting topics, making all announcements, and awarding prizes annually for those who wish to compete.

In the year ending June 1, 1908, the following topics were assigned:

1. An examination into the economic causes of large fortunes in this country.
2. The history of one selected railway system in the United States.
3. The untouched agricultural resources of North America.
4. Resumption of specie payments in 1879.
5. Industrial combinations and the financial collapse of 1903.
6. The case against socialism.
7. Causes of the rise of prices since 1898.
8. Should inequalities of wealth be regulated by a progressive income tax?
9. The effect of the industrial awakening of Asia upon the economic development of the West.