

some length in the effort to show that he was far more than that. There are small men who have a specific gift for literature or art and whose work pleases us because of this gift, and in spite of their smallness. But Morris was a great man, great in intelligence, will, and in passion; and the better one knows his work, the more one sees that greatness in all of it. All those who knew him well recognized it, even if they cared nothing for poetry or art; they fell under his influence as men fell under the influence of Napoleon, and that although he had none of Napoleon's love of power. This book is written by one who did not know him, and it is an attempt to show the nature of his influence and of his greatness in his works. He did so many things that it is impossible to speak of them all in a volume of this length; and he was never the centre of a circle like Doctor Johnson or Rossetti. Only all those who had to do with him felt that he made the issues of life and of art clearer to them; and that, we may be sure, he will continue to do for many generations yet unborn.