

PREFACE

IN writing this volume I had a threefold purpose: the first, to preserve some record of a strenuous life, of which the final act was its chief glory; the second, to offer a small tribute to New Zealand, the over-seas Dominion which bred Captain Wilding and many another volunteer who has fallen in the great fight; the third, to suggest that the cult of sport, fostered in this country, has proved, in its discipline of body and mind, a material advantage to a nation suddenly called to arms. What depends for its principles on science, but for its practice on high moral virtues. Courage and comradeship are important, but one quality is even more essential. We may describe it as "a resignation of all ends but one, and the continual concentration of the will and