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INTRODUCTION.

THE following extract from the private letter of a business-man of considerable literary culture and known excellence of character will explain the origin of this work :

“ My interest in the young men of our city has given rise to these thoughts ; and my knowledge of your writings leads me to make the suggestion to you. Your popular and widely-circulated books have been in this line ; and your studies must have been largely in this direction for many years. My idea is, that out of the study you have given to the *elements of success in life*, you could readily prepare a volume for young men, that would be what *they* need, and what the times demand. Such a work should be liberally illustrated by facts and incidents from the lives of successful men, living and dead ; and I know not, if the thing be prac-