

PREFACE.

DICTIONARIES of biography, as a rule, are bulky volumes, which seek to be exhaustive and in so doing introduce hundreds of names which not one person in a thousand is likely to look for, and in many of these cases give little more information than the dates of birth and death.

Such a work has its uses, but it is not adapted to ordinary family purposes or the convenience of students who wish quickly to gain information about some famous man. It is for this class of inquirers that the present work has been prepared. It is confined in its scope to notable persons, those who have made their mark in some field of the world's work, and whose names are likely to be frequently met with in reading, its sketches being sufficiently long to give an intelligent idea of their careers. The aim has been to combine accuracy of information with convenience in use and practical value for everyday purposes.

Special attention has been given to the names of individuals of recent date, those who have won reputation in our own day, and information concerning whom is not to be found in the older works. This volume, we trust, will prove strictly up to date in this particular, and we offer it to the public with the hope that it may prove an acceptable addition to the list of handy books of ready reference.

CHARLES MORRIS.

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