

## P R E F A C E.

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THE following *Essay*, which is now published by the Hibbert Trustees, was written in Germany about a year ago, during the author's tenure of a Hibbert Travelling Scholarship.

The *Essay* is a critical study of the two representative systems of Ethics, with one or other of which the names of most thinkers in England and America are at present associated. Mill and Hamilton, the philosophical leaders of the last generation, have chiefly a historical interest for ours; and the undying dualism of metaphysical thought is propagated in Critical Idealism and Evolutionistic Realism. Kant laid the foundations of the one, just a hundred years ago; Mr. Herbert Spencer, in our own day, has laid the foundations of the other. The present *Essay* attempts an estimate of the ethical philosophy of each of these teachers. The author has not assumed the infallibility of either system, and then proceeded to refute the other from this dogmatic standpoint: he has, on the contrary, made an honest