

PREFACE

THE function of the series to which this book belongs intrinsically precludes discussion along expertly critical ways. The prime object is to put forward the human side of the artists rather than the artistic. At the same time, the authors, recognising the close-linked sequence of French art, have attempted where the need was imperative to display that chain, and the human and relative significance of the artists' work. For, after all, the importance of people, and of artists in especial, to posterity lies in the interpenetration of their work and their environment, and in their humanity as reflected in their output. On such things, rather than on external accidents, the potential lot of any man, or irrelevant gossip, the inevitable fate of all, depends the significance of the great painters.

Mr Turner is responsible for Chapters I to XVII; Mr Collins Baker for the rest of the book.