

PREFACE

I do not know whether any of what I have set down is new; I do know that it is true. There may be some deductions in which I am in error, but broadly they follow of necessity from admitted facts. Doubtless there may not be many thinking men who will follow me in every one of my conclusions, but I believe that there are few who will not follow me in most of them. Much more important, I trust that the points in which they will refuse to agree with me will not be the same, but that these will vary according to the temperament, politics or influences of the critic. I feel at any rate that the earnest convictions of one of the men in the street, even though his philosophy may be that of the amateur, can do no harm and may accomplish good. There are undoubtedly many who see with a vision far more penetrating than mine, but likewise there are many who are more wanting in vision. It is for the latter I write, trusting that I may be able to convey to them at least the suggestion that they should