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To
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P R E F A C E

The works of G. K. Chesterton combine great variety of expression with extreme consistency of thought, so that it is difficult to establish satisfactory divisions among his writings. For the sake of convenience, this essay is forced to set up artificial barriers between subjects which are naturally related, when it should in fact be cyclic, unfolding a single simultaneous purpose through all varieties of his composition. It cannot therefore be completely comprehensive, and some definition of its scope is necessary.

This essay is primarily concerned with Chesterton's philosophy and literary expression and contains no attempt at biography. The *Autobiography* and the recent book by Professor Cammaerts have adequately dealt with the details of his life, so that nothing but incidental reference is here made to them.

Neither has separate consideration been given to Chesterton's historical or literary criticism, for the reason that he approaches his subjects from a doctrinal point of view, generally choosing such figures as illustrate his beliefs. It has been found

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PREFACE

convenient, therefore, to treat these works as a part of his general exposition of doctrine, rather than to give them a separate chapter.

Finally, I have made no study of Chesterton as an artist or illustrator, although he has had considerable success in this field. It is sufficient to mention that his heroes are usually notable for a certain Gladstonian cast of countenance.

With this brief introduction, we may begin.

M. E.

February 1939