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Robert Dale Owen

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Threading My Way

Robert Dale Owen (1801–77) was a social reformer and politician who emigrated to the United States in 1825. He was elected to the US House of Representatives in 1842, and appointed US Minister at Naples in 1853. He was the author of political pamphlets, as well as books inspired by spiritualism, such as *Footfalls on the Boundary of Another World* (1860; also reissued in this series). First published in 1874, this autobiography focuses on Owen's early life, beginning with the history of his family before his birth. As well as Owen's childhood in New Lanark, it documents the beginnings of the experimental community set up by Robert Owen, the author's father, in New Harmony, Indiana. Owen, who emigrated to the United States to help his father in this project, tells of his own experience of communal life, and sheds light on an early example of Utopian socialism.

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THREADING MY WAY

TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OF AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

BY

ROBERT DALE OWEN,

AUTHOR OF "THE DEBATABLE LAND BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND THE NEXT,"

AND OF "FOOTFALLS ON THE BOUNDARY OF ANOTHER WORLD."

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A WORD TO THE READER.

It was at the suggestion of my friend, Mr. W. D. Howells, to whose able leadership the Atlantic Monthly owes much of its well-earned popularity, that these papers were written as a serial for his Magazine. I owe to him many pleasant, and I hope profitable hours, since a calm retrospect, at an advanced age, of past hopes, labours, errors, experiences, can never be without its use.

If the public, passing these in review, finds itself under similar obligation to Mr. Howells, I shall be glad that I was invited to a task which, till he incited, I had not thought of undertaking.

R. D. O.

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