

P R E F A C E.

THERE are many defects in this little book, and many things might be said to show that these defects may form its chief interest.

With this paraphrase of a *Captatio* which has become classical in English literature, I should like to offer this Fragment to the attention of thoughtful and benevolent readers. For indeed, some apology and some explanations are needed in putting forward so incomplete and so small a contribution to the ever-increasing volume of Philosophical Writings of the present day.

As these explanations refer largely to my earlier writings and also to matters which are personal, I propose to keep them out of the text of the Treatise, bringing them together in this prefatory note. In this way they will not disturb the simple course of my argument or trouble the reader with historical references.

In the first place, I must go back to my larger work, the 'History of European Thought in the Nineteenth Century,' which was published in four volumes during the years 1896-1914. The reception of this work by the reading public has been so favour-