

INTRODUCTION

TO ALL FRIENDS OF FREEDOM!

COMRADES!

TO all who have learnt to detest the sordidness of the struggle for existence in this world of cant, into whose souls the iron of hatred for things conventional has entered, the works of the poet, to whose efforts the present volume serves as a critical introduction, must appeal with all the irresistible force of the true mysticism of realism, the rhythmic logic of idealism. I write as a militant atheist and active Socialist, as one who has spared neither pen nor tongue in the education of the masses, whose enlightenment alone spells the passing of the misery of being in this vale of tears; and I know that only in proportion as the delicate and refined, the artistic and the true, existent potentially in the soul of all, is cultivated and developed, can the mind of man intellectually revolt. And it is only in intellectual revolution, plus the emotional fervour of a suppressed idealism seeking its level of social expression, that the passage of cant is to