PREFACE

The articles in this volume of Essays and Letters all belong to the period of Tolstoy's career (the years 1888-1903). The subjects with which they deal are religion and moral duty: what man should believe and do, and what he should not believe and not do.

Some of the letters are of the nature of rough essays or drafts of essays, but if less carefully finished than the longer essays, they have the special merit of showing Tolstoy's opinions in application to certain people and to certain definite conditions. They thus help to bridge the gulf between theory and practice.

Some of the articles in this book are now published, in English, for the first time; and most of the articles are newly translated. During their preparation I have had the great advantage of receiving repeated assistance from Leo Tolstoy, as well as kind encouragement.

Footnotes that occur in the original are marked L. T. For those not so marked I am responsible.

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