T. B. SMITHIES (EDITOR OF "THE BRITISH WORKMAN"). A MEMOIR

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649718351

T. B. Smithies (Editor Of "The British Workman"). A Memoir by G. Stringer Rowe

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THIS MEMOIR

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IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.,

WHO KNEW AND LOVED THE SUBJECT OF IT WELL,

IN THE INTIMACY OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP,

AND FREQUENT ASSOCIATION OF

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PHILANTHBOPIC SERVICE.

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PREFACE.

IF any should think that a life filled with such manifold, extensive, and widely important work as that of Mr. Smithies, ought to have had a longer memorial record than that which is here given, the reply must be that he himself had a very strong objection to large memoirs. Without the most remote reference to the possibility of his ever being himself the subject of a book, he frequently expressed to me his settled opinion that a biography, in ordinary circumstances, should be of about the length of that which I have ventured to write concerning my dear friend. It may be further pointed out, that, beyond the simple

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outlines of his various work, there was nothing to tell but the incidents which arose in its accomplishment. It would have been easier to begin such a detailed history than to determine its bounds.

In performing my task, while moved throughout by the impulse of an admiring love, I have jealously guarded my judgment against the bias of affection; and I cherish the belief that those who knew Mr. Smithies most intimately will acquit me of all charge of unfairness, as I am sure they will of exaggeration.

This sketch has been drawn up, not to demand admiration for a good man's character and doings, but to point out what manner of man he was, and what were his working principles, for the instruction of those who knew less of him than of his great successes; and thus, by the benefit of his example, to help forward the holy war of light against the darkness which is

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in the world; and especially and evermore to point the supreme lesson that by a devout, believing, and dutiful oneness with the God of Light, can the victory be won, and that thus it can assuredly be won, even without the condition of brilliant gifts or great natural powers, or any favouring advantage of circumstances.

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G. S. R.

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