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P R E F A C E .

IN presenting the reader with the sixth annual volume of *Human Nature*, we have to observe, with some degree of satisfaction, that this magazine is the oldest devoted to the subject of Man published in this country. It also has the largest circulation, and is read more thoroughly than any of its class, showing that the branch of Anthropology which it represents, is the most active and productive of enthusiasm and enterprise in its adherents. Powerful societies have published Reviews and Journals with but a small circulation, and that for the most part of copies presented as a condition of membership. The friends of *Human Nature* may therefore feel some degree of pride in the noble manner in which they have sustained an enterprise without any subsidy from extraneous sources.

When we come to the contents of this volume, there is as usual something new, more especially in the matter of illustration. The products of mediumship thus presented are rather varied, and, as instances of psychological powers, are of considerable importance. They record the present state of mediumship in some of its highest forms, and introduce considerations, carrying the mind back into the past, with its similar phenomena and psychological teachers.

This volume is even more particularly cosmopolitan than any of its predecessors. The articles of which it is composed have been written in many lands, and embody the passing thoughts and events of a great variety of movements. History may yet

PREFACE.

derive from these pages more impartial records of certain events than can be obtained from reports more immediately connected with their sphere of action. The object has been, as heretofore, to preserve such mental products and records of important events as might otherwise be lost ; and, further, add to the experience and strength of a party of independent investigators and thinkers, who already occupy a position of growing importance.

The variety which the following pages contain are calculated to recommend the volume to every kind of mind. *Human Nature* has, from the first, been a "Family Magazine," and though it deals in the weightiest of subjects, yet associated with such are themes, the treatment accorded to which appeal to the appreciation of every class of reader.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the increasing degree of patronage which has been accorded to us during the career of this volume, in which recognition we do not forget the eminent services of our contributors—services which have been rendered freely, and have kept the literary resources of the magazine full to overflowing.

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