

## FOREWORD.

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IT is now more than thirty years since I began to collect information regarding the Smythies Family, with a view to compiling some sort of record of its genealogy. Since that time my views of life naturally have changed and, whatever my earlier ideas may have been, I am now labouring under no delusion as to the *absolute* value of even the longest and most illustrious of pedigrees. But in human affairs we must have regard to relative as well as to absolute values.

A large amount of time and energy have been spent on the collection and arrangement of the information recorded in this genealogy, and I think it is only right that the result should be made available for the use of those who are likely to be interested in it. Few would venture to assert that good family traditions have not helped to keep many a man straight on the high road of life, or to deny the usefulness of an intelligent study of the careers of others, including those of our own kith and kin, in whom we may often see ourselves instructively reflected.

Increased self-respect, and a desire in no way to be unworthy of those of our own stock who have set a good example, should be the result of a knowledge that our predecessors on the world's stage have been men and women of worth, who according to their lights endeavoured to fill creditably that state of life to which they were called. Whether they were among those whom the world accounted great, or whether they were known only to their own circles as kindly members of their families and good citizens, matters not at all, for equally useful lessons can be learnt in either case; and if amongst our forbears should be found some whose example does not appear to us good, from them, too, useful lessons can be learnt. The notion that a man with a long pedigree can live on credit derived from the deeds or social position of his ancestors, whilst he himself ignores virtue, is absurd; and whatever may have been possible in the past, in these twentieth-century days such an illusion is apt to lead to very unpleasant experiences for those who are foolish enough to entertain it.

With these few remarks, which are intended merely to prevent misconception as to the spirit in which this genealogy is published, I offer it to my relations and connexions, and any others whom it may concern, with all good wishes.

I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to those who have so kindly given me their help and sympathy, and responded, often at a cost of time and trouble to themselves, to my frequent applications for tiresome details; and I hope there may be nothing contained in these records which will give pain or offence to anyone.

R. H. RAYMOND SMYTHIES.

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