ANCESTRAL VOICES

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Ancestral voices by John A. Hutton

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JOHN A. HUTTON

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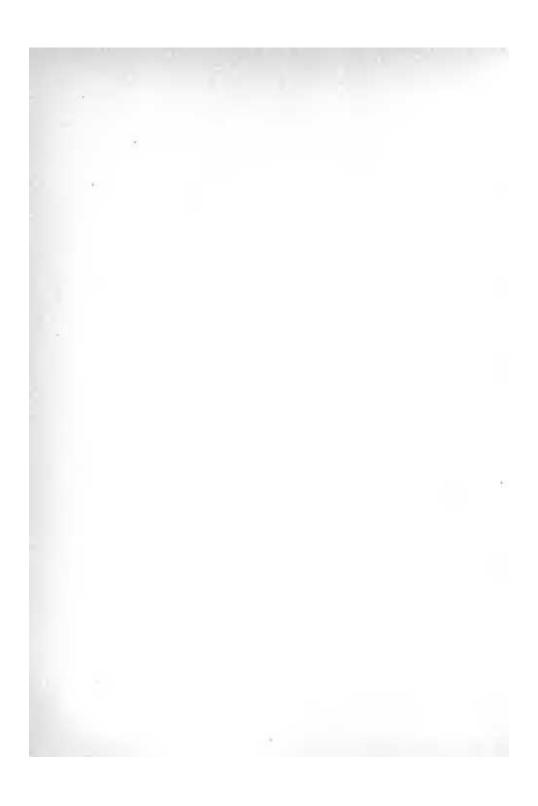
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" Priests

Should study passion; how else cure mankind, Who come for help in passionate extremes?"

TO A DEAR FRIEND F. A. A.



PREFATORY NOTE

THE title is taken from a line in Coleridge's Kubla Khan, and itself suggests much of what lies behind this volume of essays.

Coleridge wrote, "Ancestral voices prophesying war." The thesis underlying these essays might be put in this way: the nature of man, especially of the man of Western civilisation, has, on the whole, taken form. There is in him—the fruit of his long physical and historical travail—an invincible core of wisdom and final prejudice, and any invasion of his catholic human nature, man as an individual and in societies inevitably rises to repel.

The book, therefore, may help serious people to perceive that what we are beholding in this terrible time is a conflict between the Ancestral Voices of the soul and a merely rationalistic and temporary way of conceiving man's true function in this world; and that the darkness which is meanwhile over the world is the protest of man's established and universal nature against a proposed sectional tyranny.

OGSCASTLE, CARNWATH, September 1915.