

THE MINISTRY OF ART

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The Ministry of Art by Ralph Adams Cram

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RALPH ADAMS CRAM

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BY

RALPH ADAMS CRAM

LITT.D., F.A.I.A., F.R.G.S.



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To
HER GRACE ADELINE MARIE
DUCHESS OF BEDFORD

12. 2. 1904. 4. 12. 1904.

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PREFACE

IN bringing together for publication lectures and addresses delivered at different times, before various audiences, and in places widely separated from each other, the question inevitably arises whether they shall be printed as they were given or, instead, wholly recast through the elimination of ideas and passages that are common to several or even all of them. To follow the latter course is almost impossible without total destruction of such chain of thought as may exist, and, therefore, it seems better to rest under the charge of indulging in vain repetitions than to lay one's self open to the opposite charge of incoherency of thought.

After all, there is no longer the possibility of novelty in ideas, except where these are indefensible by any argument based on history and precedent: the fundamental laws — spiritual, ethical, philosophical — were long ago either revealed or determined, and the only excuse for their reiteration to-day is that so many of them