

**STEPHEN
GRELLET**

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Stephen Grellet by William Guest

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WILLIAM GUEST

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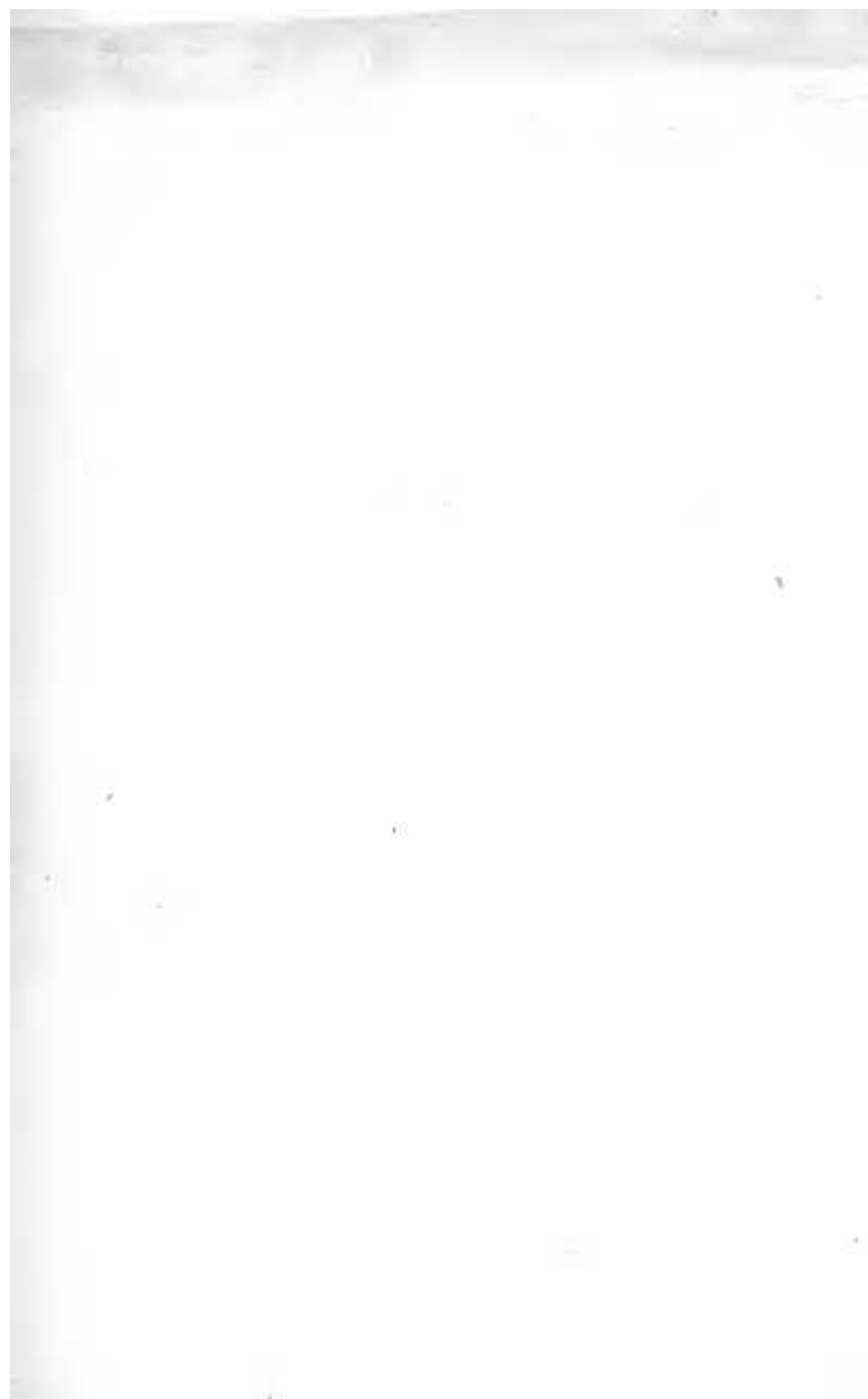
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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE following is the Life of a man who saw the last days of the great French Monarchy, shared the sufferings of the old French Nobility, traversed Europe several times on a mission of mercy during the wars of the First Napoleon, assisted after the peace in the development of a new period, was one among the first and foremost workers for the abolition of slavery, aided in the advancement of the United States Republic to its present greatness, and lived on beyond the middle of this century. This remarkable life has hitherto been little known beyond the circle of the Society of Friends. The "Memoirs of the Life and Gospel Labours of Stephen Grellet," edited by Benjamin Seebohm, are contained in two large and closely printed octavo volumes, and have passed through three Editions. There is also an interesting and good sized volume, called an "Abridged Edition," by R. and C. R. Alsop, but written mainly for the use of Friends. Messrs. Samuel Harris & Co. have courteously granted permission to prepare in a briefer form a Life intended for the general Christian public.

W. G.

Milton-on-Thames.



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CHAPTER I.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES.

THE few introductory remarks of this chapter will not, it is hoped, be regarded as mere truisms, but rather as the statement of principles of which we need in this age to be reminded.

The latter part of the third quarter of this century brought into full manifestation two totally opposite schools of opinion. On the one side were eminent and distinguished students of biology, physics, and philosophy, who having started on their investigations with the principle that the supernatural is not the field for human inquiries, have apparently come to admit design without a designer, to teach a sublime scheme of evolution which has proceeded, not with a presiding will, but on self-acting laws, and have thus, by a willing dismissal of the Creator, turned the faces of not a few in this generation away from the light, so that they confront only negations and ever deepening darkness. Unspeakably melancholy has this become to a younger race of scientific inquirers, while in lower levels of society the disbelief has filtered as a baleful poison of vice, licence, and corruption. On the other hand, there is a vast multitude of rare cultured and earnest Christian believers who, compelled to note in the world and in human history indubitable proofs of the presence and temptations of the spirit of evil, and at the same time irrefutable evidences of the presence among men of a Saviour, are prepared for a cordial acceptance of the profound spirituality of the