

**THE MEN WHO
MAKE
OUR NOVELS**

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The men who make our novels by George Gordon

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GEORGE GORDON

**THE MEN WHO
MAKE
OUR NOVELS**

MODERN AMERICAN WRITERS



THE MEN WHO MAKE OUR NOVELS

The Men Who Make Our Novels .

BY
GEORGE GORDON



UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

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TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

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In order that this book might be published on schedule time, the chapters on Peter B. Kyne, Zane Grey, Thomas Dixon and Basil King were prepared by Mr. Howard Willard Cook, editor of the *American Writers Series*. There has been no attempt on Mr. Cook's part to make these chapters critical. They are presentations of biographical fact. The authors either were in Europe, engaged in war work, or in some way inaccessible to Mr. Gordon. These chapters embody Mr. Cook's idea of presentation, rather than criticism in the series.

IN LIEU OF A PREFACE

"All books should have a preface, to tell what they are about and why they were written," says Mr. Arthur Bullard, in the opening sentence of his first novel, *A Man's World*; continuing, "This book is about myself."

As is usual with books and prefaces alike, since no man can escape the prison of his personality to view the world with any eyes but his own; we cannot, like that Tiresias cited by Monsieur France, be men and at the same time have memories of having been women.

The present volume, presumably dealing with certain of those who make novels, was written on demand, and is, for the most part, concerned with the life and opinions of George Gordon. For this reason, despite Mr. Bullard's frank invitation, I am loathe to add (to so much) a preface on him. Rather am I of the opinion of the author who demurred when the first John Murray demanded a preface to his book. A preface (he said) always put him in mind of Hamlet's exclamation to the tardy player, "Leave thy most damnable faces, and begin!"

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