PREFACE

George Meredith though chronologically belonged to the Victorian Age, shared many traits with the moderns, and he was a pioneer of Feminism in the true sense. He is a harbinger of the modern spirit in which the woman has tried to establish her own identity in the society. A careful reading of Meredith’s novels brings before us the world, which was undreamt of. Women of to-day, if ever come across his novel, ‘The Egoist’ may ask: ‘Why all this fuss?’ If a sensible girl like Clara doesn’t like a man like Sir Willoughby, can at once give him up. But the women of today should try to realise that they owe their present freedom to the Claras of the past.

With this realisation I was fascinated by Meredith’s novels. He has delineated such powerful and wonderful heroines and has painted them with various shades that they stand before us alive.

I have undertaken this work with the belief that I could make people understand that how a great novelist like George Meredith has been ignored in the present era. Today, when we talk so much about the empowerment of women, it becomes inevitable to acknowledge the contribution made by George Meredith.