PREFACE

The Victorian period provided a complete revolution in the attitude towards children. The progress of this revolution, to which Victorian fiction contributed in no small measure, it is the main object of the thesis to outline. The term "Victorian" is used here not in the strictly chronological but broadly representative sense, and "childhood" is intended to cover all those years of early life when the character is chiefly formed.

In expressing my thanks to those who have helped me in this work I must mention first my gratitude to Dr. Edwin Muir, C.B.E. and Mr. K.A. Wood of Newbattle Abbey College, Dalkeith, where I was a student for some time. But for their kindly interest and guidance I would have found it impossible to continue the research which I had undertaken some years ago in India. To the staff of the National Library of Scotland, and in particular to Mr. W. Beattie, the Librarian, for directing me to some valuable sources of information, and to the staff of the University of Edinburgh Library, I wish to express my grateful appreciation of their unfailing courtesy and help.

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never have been completed. To Professor Penwick I find it difficult to express my gratitude except in terms in which Dickens spoke of Paul's debt to Florence Dombey: "showed him all that was so rough, made smooth, and all that was so dark, made clear and plain, before him."

University of Edinburgh
3rd March, 1964

R.G.C.