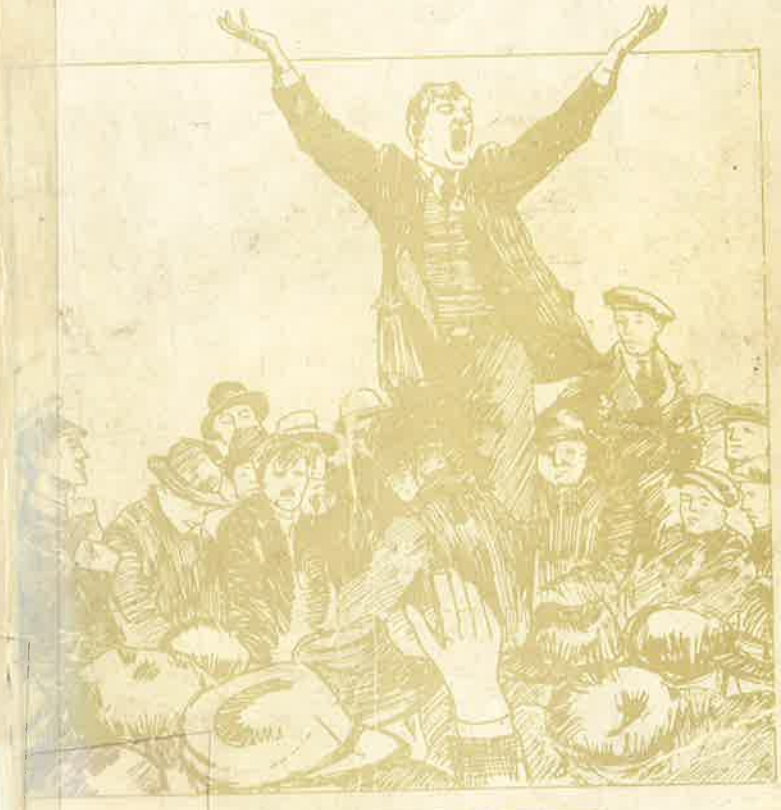
LEADERS AND WORKERS

Edited by J. W. BOYLE



The Thomas Davis Lecture Series

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Here are portraits of nine men (William Thompson, John Doherty, Feargus O'Connor, Bronterre O'Brien, James Fintan Lalor, Michael Davitt, William Walker, James Connolly, James Larkin) whose lives between them span a century and a half, linking the days of the United Irishmen with our own. They include a forerunner of Marx, Chartists, trade union pioneers, champions of tenant farmers' and women's rights, leaders in the Irish and British labour movements. Though they came from different backgrounds, each of them, whether reformer or revolutionary, thinker or organiser, radical democrat or socialist—and some filled most of these roles—desired, like Thomas Russell, to alter conditions in which property was put before life. Even the least successful gave their followers in bleak and bitter times a fresh sense of human dignity and informed them with some of their own passion for the creation of a society freed from inequality and injustice. It is this passion that makes the lives and ideas of these nine Irishmen of continuing interest to-day.

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