T. H. GREEN was born at Birkin, the West Riding of Yorkshire on 7 April 1836. His father Valentine Green was an evangelical rector, the son of a squire from Leicestershire. Green's mother, who died when he was one year old, was the daughter of Edward Thomas Vaughan, a vicar in Leicester. Green was distantly related to Cromwell and held a great admiration for his place in English constitutional history. In 1850 he went to Rugby school where he was undistinguished in his educational attainment, and thought of as 'constitutionally indolent'. He went up to Balliol College in 1855 where he gained a second class in classical moderations. Spurred on by a sense of failure and the stimulus of Benjamin Jowett and Charles Parker he gained a first class in Literae Humaniores. He became a Fellow of Balliol in 1860, and was re-elected in 1872, shortly after marrying Charlotte Symonds in 1871. In 1864 he was unsuccessful in his application for the chair of moral philosophy at St. Andrews, which went to Robert Flint, now famous for his short book on Vico. He received a LL.D. from Glasgow University in 1875, and was appointed Whyte's Professor of Moral Philosophy in 1878.

For parts of 1865 and 1866 Green discharged his duties as an assistant commissioner appointed under the terms of reference of the royal commission of 1864 to enquire into educational provision for the middle class in England. Green was a radical on most of the important issues of his day. He was a champion of the North against slavery in the American Civil War and actively supported educational, parliamentary, and social reform (including liquor legislation) in Britain by speaking at public meetings and contributing to the practical success of schemes he helped to initiate. He was a personal inspiration to many leading reformers including, Asquith, Alfred Milner, Charles Gore and Scott Holland. In 1876 he was elected to Oxford Town Council. On 15 March 1882 he was taken seriously ill and developed acute signs of blood poisoning. He died on 26 March and is buried in St. Sepulchre's cemetery, North Oxford.

Biographical: R. L. Nettleship, 'Memoir' in Works of Thomas Hill Green (London, Longmans Green, 1888); J. H. Muirhead, 'Thomas Hill Green 1832-1882', Great

Democrats, ed. A. Barrat Brown (London, 1934); Alan P. F. Sell, Philosophical Idelaism and Christian Belief (Cardiff, University of Wales Press, 1995).

Principal works: Prolegomena to Ethics (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1883); The Works of Thomas Hill Green, ed. R. L. Nettleship, 3 vols. (London, Longmans Green, 1885-8).