

ERNEST RENAN

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Ernest Renan by William Barry

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WILLIAM BARRY

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ERNEST RENAN

An immense river of oblivion sweeps us onward into a gulf without a name. O abyss, thou art the only God! The tears of all peoples are tears indeed; the dreams of all wise men have in them a parcel of the truth. All here below is but symbol and dream. The gods pass away like men; it would not be well did they last forever. The faith which we have held ought never to be a chain. We have done our duty by it when we have carefully wrapped it round in the purple shroud wherein the dead gods sleep.

My life has been such as I desired, such as I conceived to be the best. Had I to live it over again, I should make very little change. On the other hand, I am not much afraid of the future. I shall have my biography and my legend.

—ERNEST RENAN.

Literary Lives

ERNEST RENAN

BY

WILLIAM BARRY, D.D.

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