

**GOETHE'S FAUST: A
FRAGMENT OF
SOCIALIST CRITICISM**

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Goethe's Faust: A Fragment of Socialist criticism by Marcus Hitch

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MARCUS HITCH

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A Fragment of Socialist Criticism

BY
MARCUS HITCH



CHICAGO
CHARLES H. KERR & COMPANY
1908

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The "Divinity that shapes our ends" is Mankind itself, which is both the author and actor of its own drama (Marx). But in the class society called "Civilization" what is comedy for the rich is tragedy for the poor. The class character of this civilization is reflected in its poetry, as well as in its other intellectual creations, and a clear understanding of this fact is useful, both to curb the insolent pretensions of the oppressors, who assume to portray "universal" human nature, and to arouse the spirits of the oppressed who are destined to recast the great Human Drama and usher in a different kind of "Civilization" and Literature.

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GOETHE'S FAUST.

CHAPTER I.

AN OUTLINE OF PART I.

Goethe's *Faust* is the story of a man in the pursuit of happiness and the satisfaction of his impulses, which pursuit in a broad sense is the chief occupation of all of us. It is in dramatic form and is labeled a tragedy, with as little propriety as Dante's *Vision* is called a comedy. The only tragedy about it is contained in the first part, and this, though it is the shorter and less important part, is the only part that is ever acted on the stage or that is widely known.

Taking both parts together from first to last it will not be denied that a most interesting series of questions is presented by this work and that it furnishes abundant food for reflection. There is the longing of the human soul for freedom, knowledge and