

**A MAN'S REACH;  
OR, SOME  
CHARACTER IDEALS**

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A man's reach; or, Some character ideals by Charles Edward Locke

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**CHARLES EDWARD LOCKE**

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# A MAN'S REACH

OR

## SOME CHARACTER IDEALS

A man's reach should exceed his grasp,  
Or what's a heaven for?

—*Browning*

BY  
CHARLES EDWARD LOCKE



NEW YORK: EATON & MAINS  
CINCINNATI: JENNINGS & GRAHAM



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TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE  
FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, AMONG WHOM  
I AM SPENDING SOME OF THE HAPPIEST  
YEARS OF MY HUMBLE MINISTRY, THIS  
VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.





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## FOREWORD

THIS is not an ambitious volume, but is a modest contribution to a subject upon which much has been written. From the days when the Father of the Faithful went forth from Chaldea, "not knowing whither he went," down to the eloquent Roman orator who said, "Ideals are overtures of immortality," and on to Mazzini, who taught the young men of Italy to "love and venerate ideals, because ideals are the word of God," earnest men have been in pursuit of their ideals—the realization of their fondest dreams. Such men have momentum and destination. It is the achievement of the impossible which makes the human race possible. This book has no particular message except to those who believe that "the good is the enemy of the best." While each chapter is independent, yet these discussions are arranged in a natural sequence which makes each a part of all the others.

The author defines character as the fine art of giving up, and this ideal will be found running like a motif in music throughout these studies. Because in so many ways these pages fall short of the author's highest ideals he craves the indulgence of the amiable reader.

Los Angeles, California, March, 1914.