

HUMAN LIFE

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Human Life by S. S. Knight

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S. S. KNIGHT

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By
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DEDICATION

THIS volume is dedicated to my Mother and my Wife—the two women whose influence has most largely shaped my life, and whose companionship has afforded me so much happiness. It was written with the hope that it might be of value to my two children, and may they find as much happiness in life as has the author.

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HUMAN LIFE

CHAPTER I

THE HABITAT OF MAN

IN reviewing the facts concerning humanity, which are well authenticated at the present date, with the object of getting a composite view of the greatest of all "world riddles"—"Life"—possibly nothing tends so largely to expand our mental horizon as a study of the earth itself or man's place of abode. The ideas of the educated and cultured mind, at the beginning of the twentieth century, upon cosmogony, are necessarily of such a character that man's heretofore undisputed boast of being the objective and acme of creation or evolution is forced into that great mass of theories which science has proven to be absolutely untenable. Since the relative importance of the factors of heredity and adaptation has become known, the environment, or conditions surrounding man's existence in