

**ON LIFE AFTER
DEATH; PP. 7-94**

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GUSTAV THEODOR FECHNER

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ON LIFE AFTER DEATH.

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ON
LIFE AFTER DEATH

FROM THE GERMAN
OF
GUSTAV THEODOR FECHNER

BY
HUGO WERNEKKE
HEAD MASTER OF WEIMAR REALSCHULE



London
SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE, & RIVINGTON
CROWN BUILDINGS, 188, FLEET STREET
1882

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. . . El nacer
Y el morir son parecidos.
La vida es sueño: I. 678.

TO
THE VENERABLE AUTHOR,
ON
HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY,
RESPECTFULLY PRESENTED
BY
The Translator.

1-5-38

PREFACE OF THE TRANSLATOR.

THOUGH Fechner's name is well known abroad in scientific circles, it may not be unnecessary to introduce this little book with a few remarks about himself and his writings, especially as some readers might be inclined to assume that the Professor Fechner who is eminent for his investigations on the electric forces, and on the interdependence of physical and psychical phenomena, must be a different person from the author of "Life after Death." It is by no means uncommon to find an author employed in two or more different directions, and the circumstance that his poems were published under the name of Dr. Mises, has indeed given rise to the suggestion that he wanted to keep apart Fechner the poet from Fechner the man of science. A more than superficial inspection of his writings, however,

will prove this suggestion to be unfounded. It is not very difficult to trace a connexion between most, if not all, the subjects he has treated in numerous publications, both in poetry and prose, in the humorous and in the serious style.

His philosophical views are shadowed forth, though dimly and vaguely, in the humorous compositions of his early youth. The ideas laid down in the first part of his great *Zend-Avesta* appear as a little piece of fun in his fantasies "On the Anatomy of Angels," and the reader will be astonished to find out afterwards how very much in earnest such amusing flights of fancy may be taken, a circumstance of which the author himself was evidently not conscious at that period. These and similar productions were no doubt composed under the influence of Jean Pau' Richter, who, at the time of their publication was still alive. For Gustav Theodor Fechner began to write early.

He was born, on the 19th of April, 1801, at Gross-Särchen, a small village, on the road from Bautzen to Spremberg, in the Oberlausitz, which at present belongs to the Prussian