

**THE PHILOSOPHY
OF
DISENCHANTMENT**

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The Philosophy of Disenchantment by Edgar Evertson Saltus

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EDGAR EVERTSON SALTUS

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OF
DISENCHANTMENT**

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This One



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By the same Author.

A TRANSACTION IN HEARTS.

EDEN.

THE TRUTH ABOUT TRISTREM VARICK.

MR. INCOUL'S MISADVENTURE.

A TRANSIENT GUEST.

THE ANATOMY OF NEGATION.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF DISENCHANTMENT.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF
DISENCHANTMENT

BY

EDGAR EVERTSON SALTUS

"In Arkadien geboren sind wir Alle"

SCHILLER

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THE PHILOSOPHY OF DIS- ENCHANTMENT.

CHAPTER I.

THE GENESIS OF DISENCHANTMENT.

THE trite and commonplace question of contentment and dissatisfaction is a topic which is not only of every-day interest, but one which in recent years has so claimed the attention of thinkers, that they have broadly divided mankind into those who accept life off-hand, as a more or less pleasing possession, and those who resolutely look the gift in the mouth and say it is not worth the having.

Viewed simply as systems of thought, the first of these two divisions is evidently contemporaneous with humanity, while the second will be found to be of purely modern origin; for from the earliest times man, admittedly and with but few exceptions, has been ever accustomed to regard this world as the best one possible, and through nearly every creed and sect he has considered happiness somewhat in the light of an inviolable birthright.