

**"THE GREATEST OF THESE":
A BOOK OF FIVE TO
TWENTY MINUTE ESSAYS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649439355

"The Greatest of These": A Book of Five to Twenty Minute Essays by Robert O. Lawton

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ROBERT O. LAWTON

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A BOOK OF FIVE TO
TWENTY MINUTE
ESSAYS

BY

ROBERT O. LAWTON

Chair of English in Lander College



BOSTON
SHERMAN, FRENCH & COMPANY
1913


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PREFACE

The readers of *The Christian Advocate* (the general organ of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South) and the *Southern Christian Advocate* (the official organ of South Carolina Methodism) will recognize practically the entire contents of this volume as having appeared from time to time in these excellent religious periodicals. This volume is published with the high hope that it may be helpful to my old and my new readers.

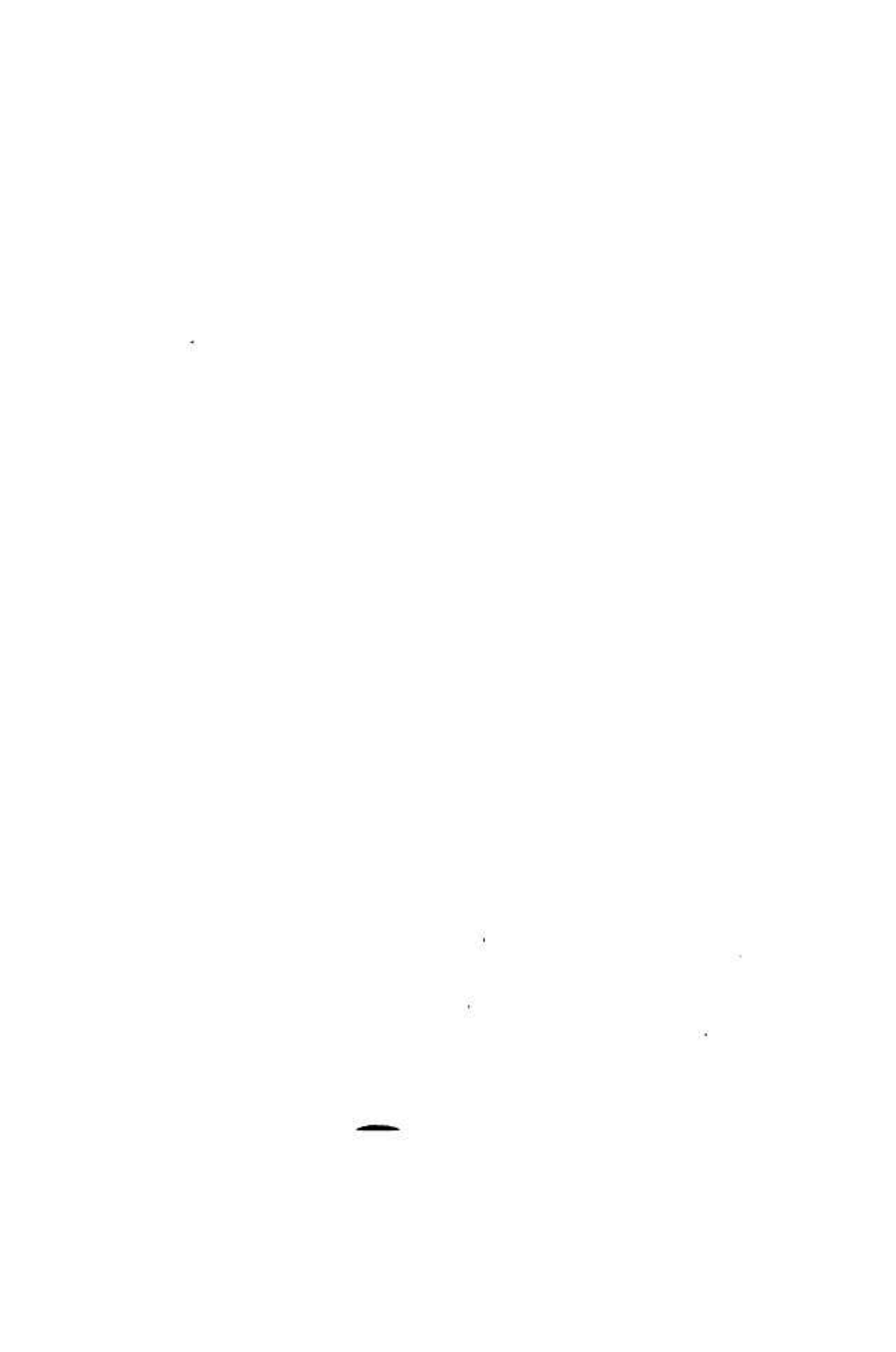
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I

“THE GREATEST OF THESE”

Love is life and life is love. Where there is no love there is no life. The loveless life is the Godless life. Where love is, God is, for God is love. Love is the reflection of God, yea it is God Himself. Love is the highest and holiest manifestation of God, the sublimest expression of man. It is impossible to define love in exact terms. Love speaks a language of its own — the most beautiful language that the world has ever known — but it is a wordless language. And love refuses to be cramped into a few man-made words. The world today dreams of dollars and yearns quenchlessly for fame and reaches passionately after pleasure, but it is love above all else for which the world unconsciously hungers. Money and fame and pleasure may pass away with a passing day, but love lives for all time and all eternity. Whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away; but love, secure in her existence, abides amid the war of