

**THE LOSING AND FINDING  
OF LIFE IN "PEER  
GYNT", "PARACELSUS",  
"BRAND", "PARSIFAL"**

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The Losing and Finding of Life in "Peer Gynt", "Paracelsus", "Brand", "Parsifal" by Frederic E. Dewhurst

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**FREDERIC E. DEWHURST**

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**THE LOSING AND FINDING OF LIFE**

THE  
LOSING AND FINDING  
OF LIFE

IN

"PEER GYNT" "PARACELSUS"  
"BRAND" "PARSIFAL"

BY

FREDERIC E. DEWHURST

AUTHOR OF

"DWELLERS IN TENTS" "THE MAGI OF THE WEST"  
"THE INVESTMENT OF TRUTH"

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CHICAGO

1909

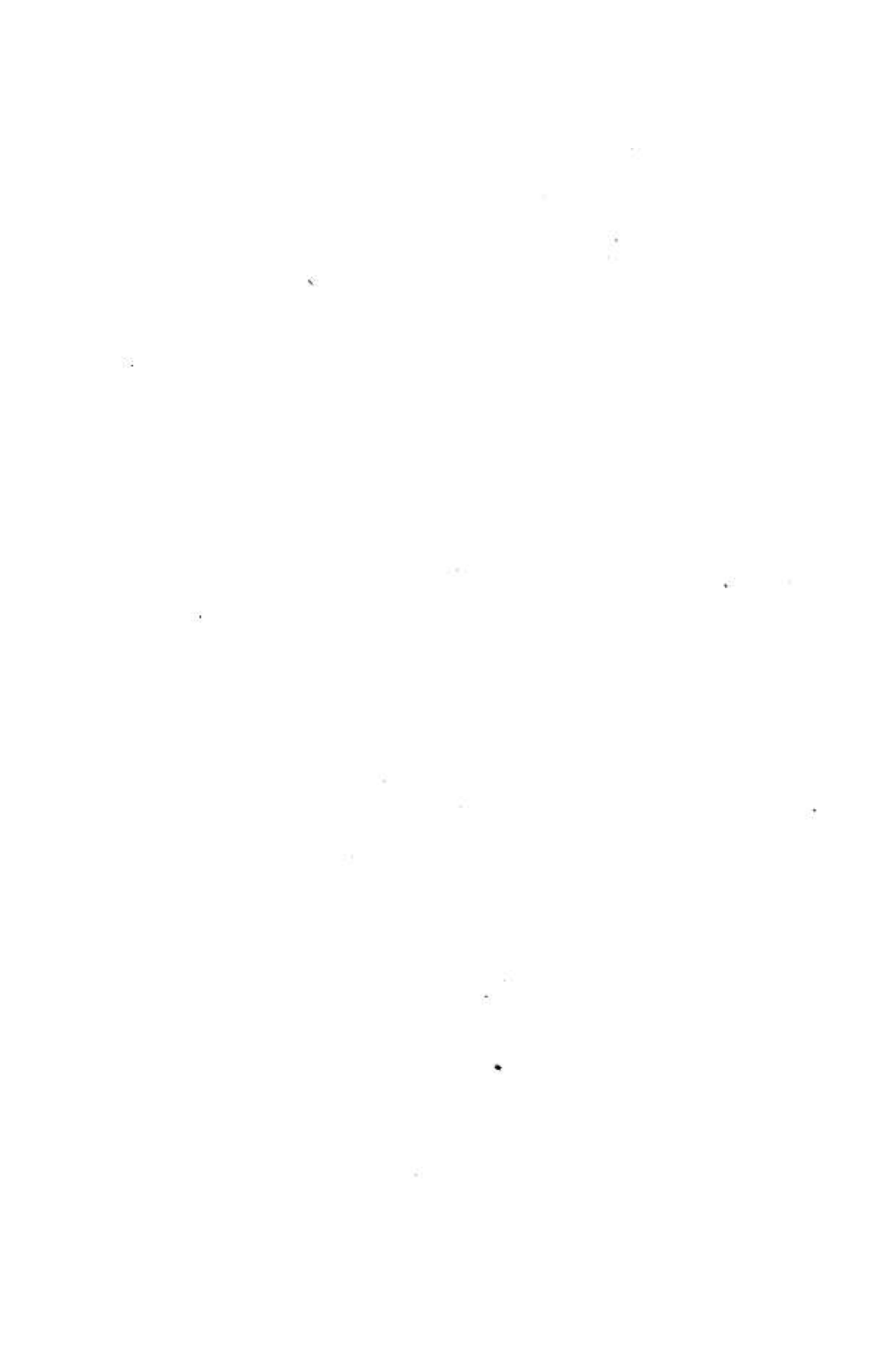
TO HIS FRIENDS  
WHO FOUND IN HIM  
LIFE GENUINELY HUMAN  
A BROAD INTELLECT  
AN UNSWERVING CONSCIENCE  
ALL MADE PERFECT BY LOVE  
A MAN "AS GOD MEANT HIM TO BE"





## CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. THE FORFEITING OF LIFE THROUGH THE SENSES: "PEER GYNT" . . . . .	I
II. THE FORFEITING OF LIFE THROUGH THE INTEL- LECT: "PARACELUS" . . . . .	27
III. THE FORFEITING OF LIFE THROUGH THE IRON CONSCIENCE: "BRAND" . . . . .	49
IV. THE FINDING OF LIFE THROUGH LOVE AND SERVICE: "PARSIFAL" . . . . .	71



## I

### THE FORFEITING OF LIFE THROUGH THE SENSES: "PEER GYNT"

That quaint English writer, Quiller Couch, says something to the effect that "the world's literature stands unaffected though Archdeacon Farrar use it for chapter-headings, and Sir John Lubbock wield it as a mallet to drive home self-evident truths." Though I fully appreciate the difficulty of making these works of literature tell their own story in anything like an adequate manner in four brief addresses, I shall at least try to make them more than chapter headings, or the mere adornment of literary allusion. They shall, if possible, be like four avenues coming from different directions and converging at the center upon that searching question of Christ—"What shall a man be profited if he gain the whole world and lose himself?"

What is this elusive thing which we call "ourself"? What is it to find one's self? What is it to be one's self? These are fundamental questions of religion and of life, and to these questions *Peer Gynt*, and *Paracelsus*, and *Brand*, and *Parsifal* give a more or less intentional and deliberate answer.