

**QUEST AND VISION:
ESSAYS IN LIFE AND
LITERATURE, PP. 1-232**

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Quest and Vision: Essays in Life and Literature, pp. 1-232 by W. J. Dawson

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W. J. DAWSON

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THE CHURCH OF TO-MORROW.

ADDRESSES DELIVERED IN THE UNITED STATES AND
. . . CANADA BY W. J. DAWSON. . . .

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QUEST AND VISION

ESSAYS IN LIFE AND LITERATURE

BY
W. J. DAWSON

AUTHOR OF

The Church of To-morrow

This music crept by me upon the waters,
Allaying both their fury and my passion
With its sweet air; thence I have followed it,
Or it hath drawn me rather:—but 'tis gone.
No, it begins again!—*Tempest, Act I, Scene 2*

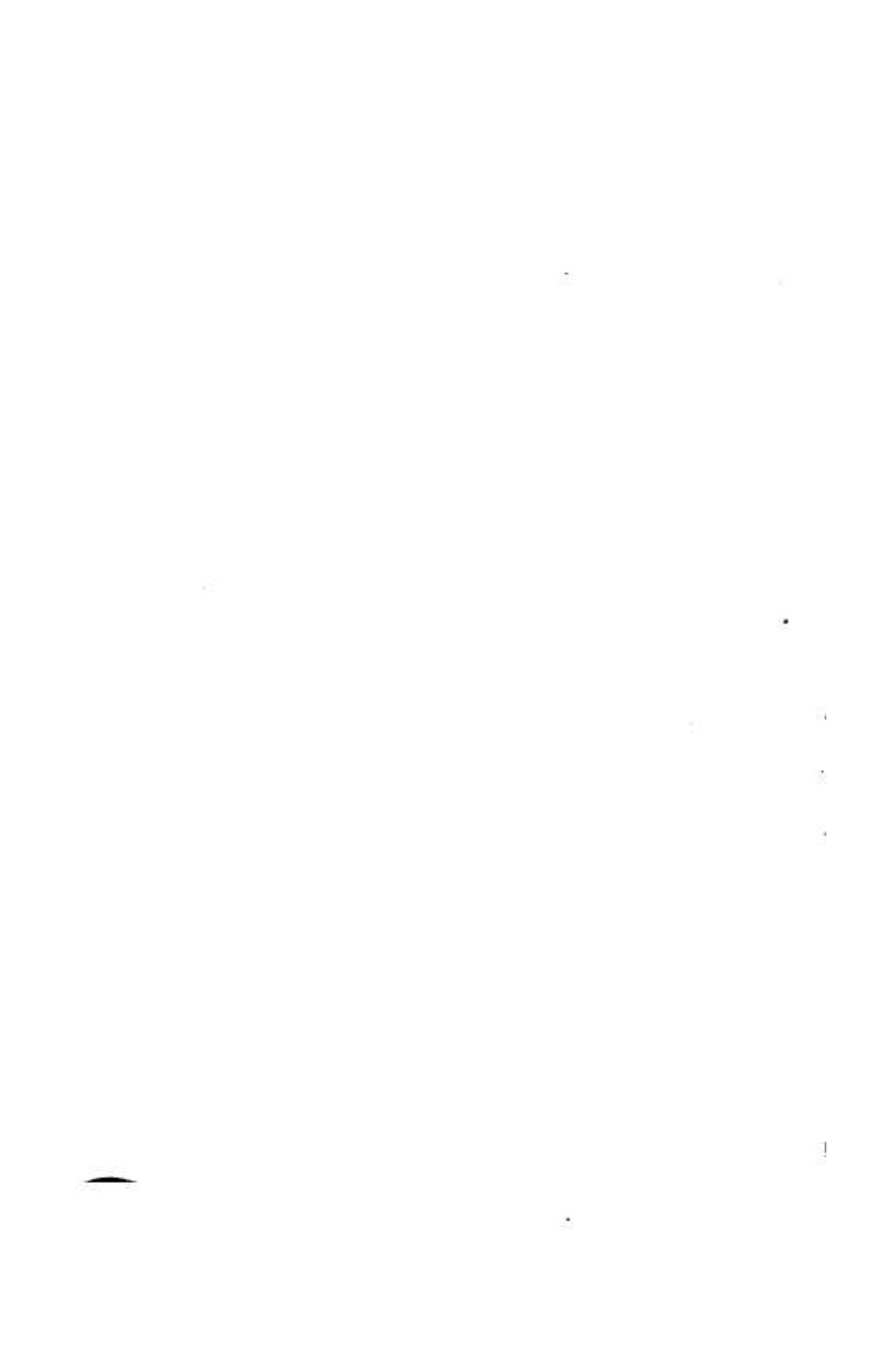


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ART AND TRUTH.

THE weary years, the summer's gold,
Man's feverish joy and pain,
Pass like a dream, and all grows old:
Tell me, what things remain?

Two names alone, and Truth is one:
A face inscrutable,
With lips that neither laugh nor moan,
Yet all things have to tell.

And Art the other: at the gate
Of her old Paradise,
Whoe'er shall come, or soon or late,
She opens to the wise.

We fade and pass: we fret our days
In barren love and strife;
But happier he who only prays
Beneath the Tree of Life.

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SHELLEY.

MR. RUSSELL LOWELL has used an admirable phrase about Wordsworth which is worthy of reproduction; he has spoken of his "almost irritating respectability." Why respectability on the part of a poet should be irritating it is difficult to say, unless it be that the conventional tradition of poets is precisely the reverse of respectable. Poets, from Homer downward, have been more or less at variance with average society. They have not belonged to the sober, tax-paying, owe-no-man-any-thing type of humanity. Respectable citizens have habitually held them in suspicion, as persons of uncertain character, and presenting to the common eye no visible means of support. The Act of Parliament which reckoned the actor a vagabond marked the apotheosis of respectability, its concrete utterance, its definite and unalterable verdict upon all classes of men who live by the exercise or cultivation of the imaginative powers. One of the facts which philosophic moralists have to deal with