

**BROWNING'S  
PARACELSUS AND  
OTHER ESSAYS, PP. 1-100**

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Browning's Paracelsus and Other Essays, pp. 1-100 by J. D. Buck

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# BROWNING'S PARACELSUS

AND OTHER ESSAYS.

BY  
J. D. BUCK,

Author of "A Study of Man," "Mystic Masonry," etc.

*"Sleep is but birth into the land  
of Memory; birth but a sleep  
in the oblivion of the Past."*

CINCINNATI:  
THE ROBERT CLARKE COMPANY,

1897.

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TO

L. C. B.

THE MOST LOYAL AND HELPFUL OF

COMRADES

In all of the Author's Aspirations and Endeavors.





Gift  
L. H. S. Barbour Esq  
6-18-29

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## INTRODUCTION.

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We are nearing the close of the Nineteenth Century, and the spirit of unrest is in the air. Turn whichever way you will, the old foundations are being broken up, and the ancient monuments overturned. There was a period, within the memory of those still living, when causes now active seemed inoperative, and things now investigated and exploded were regarded as sacred, and it was sacrilege to question, much more to interfere with them. "Things settled by long use," as Bacon once said, "if not absolutely good, at least fit well together." Society, and even human thought, are

like a Chinese puzzle, loosen one piece, disturb one section, and the whole begins to fall in pieces. Innovation once started runs like a mighty wave, gathering force as it advances, till it sweeps all before it. Many earnest souls see only the destruction left behind, but the prophetic spirit discerns the germs of a new life springing from the ruins of the old. The tidal-wave is still advancing, yet the promise of the newer life is heralded by many signs. We are in a transition period, in the twilight that precedes the dawn.

We are told by those who have carefully studied the cyclic flight of time and the slow-revolving centuries, that the last quarter of every century for many millenniums has been marked by similar events, and that certain great truths are brought prominently forward as guiding