

**THE VOICE OF THE
MACHINES; AN
INTRODUCTION, THE
TWENTIETH CENTURY**

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The voice of the machines; an introduction, the twentieth century by Gerald Stanley Lee

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GERALD STANLEY LEE

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The Voice of the Machines

An Introduction to the Twentieth Century

BY

Gerald Stanley Lee



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TO JENNETTE LEE

. "Now and then my fancy caught
A flying glimpse of a good life beyond—
Something of ships and sunlight, streets and singing,
Troy falling, and the ages coming back,
And ages coming forward."



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PART ONE
THE MEN BEHIND THE MACHINES



THE MEN BEHIND THE MACHINES

I

MACHINES. AS SEEN FROM A MEADOW

IT would be difficult to find anything in the encyclopedia that would justify the claim that we are about to make, or anything in the dictionary. Even a poem—which is supposed to prove anything with a little of nothing—could hardly be found to prove it; but in this beginning hour of the twentieth century there are not a few of us—for the time at least allowed to exist upon the earth—who are obliged to say (with Luther), "Though every tile on the roundhouse be a devil, we cannot say otherwise—the locomotive is beautiful."

As seen when one is looking at it as it is, and is not merely using it.

As seen from a meadow.

We had never thought to fall so low as this, or that the time would come when we would feel moved—all but compelled, in fact—to betray to a cold and discriminating world our poor, pitiful, one-adjective state.