

**THE DRAMA OF THE
CYCLE AND
OTHER POEMS**

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The Drama of the Cycle and Other Poems by M. J. Gorton

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M. J. GORTON

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BY
M. J. GORTON

v. C. BOSTON
JOSEPH GEORGE CUPPLES
250 Boylston Street
MDCCCXCI

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APR 10 1893
Col. W. Higginson
Cambridge.

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PREFACE.

Bishop Butler in the introduction to his *Analogy* bases his Argument on the doctrine of probability. Voltaire, in an essay on judicial inquiries, teaches, also, that probable evidence is the basis of action in the affairs of life. "Moral action," says Mr. Gladstone, "is conversant almost wholly with probable evidence."

The fact that moral duty may be studied in the light of the progressive spirit of man down through the ages, under the crucial test of scientific scrutiny, does not hinder the fact of statement so conceived and so stated, that, true to the laws of moral evidence from the standpoint taken, the premises and conclusions are just; and yet the result may shock the finer sensibilities and traditional instincts of a differently cultured public. The plea that the dreary code of the morality taught in the "*Kreutzer Sonata*" is repulsive to western nations, does not affect the fact that the book is moral in fact and in statement.

The Oriental idea that marital love, even when approached and lived in the purest manner, is looked upon as an unclean thing, and this base view of passionate expres-

sion, is happily without recognition among western nations.

Music, Sculpture, Art, the Drama and family affection, and that form of Romance which generates into altruistic development, are recognized as the foundation of pure living and clean morals, and encourages the highest expression in Art, and on this view of progress as opposed to that adopted by Count Tolstol — with the probable evidence of scientific truth in this statement of morals — is the argument on which "The Ballad of the Cycle," is founded and sung.

To condemn all expression of Art save that used in worship of the Highest is to limit the intellectual range and dwarf the affections, but to progress toward the Good, the True, and the Beautiful by advancing from the Seen to the Unseen is the pathway of natural growth.

M. J. G.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, March 10, 1891.

DRAMA OF THE CYCLE.

BEFORE Time was, the Eternal
Lay and brooded in the darkness,
In the vast and silent darkness,
Till a fragment of his Spirit,
Slow-detaching from his substance,
From his substance immaterial,
Forming into misty masses,
Into misty, tremulous vapors,
Slow-evolving in the darkness,
Ever stretching farther, wider,
Lay around the great Eternal,
A huge globe of frothing vapor.
Then the great Omnipresent
Breathed upon this misty vapor
And the currents of his breathing
Set the whole in whirling motion,
Drove the globules of the vapor
Into balls of greater denseness,