LIFE AT THE MERMAID AND OTHER ESSAYS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649110919

Life at the Mermaid and other essays by Sir J. C. Squire

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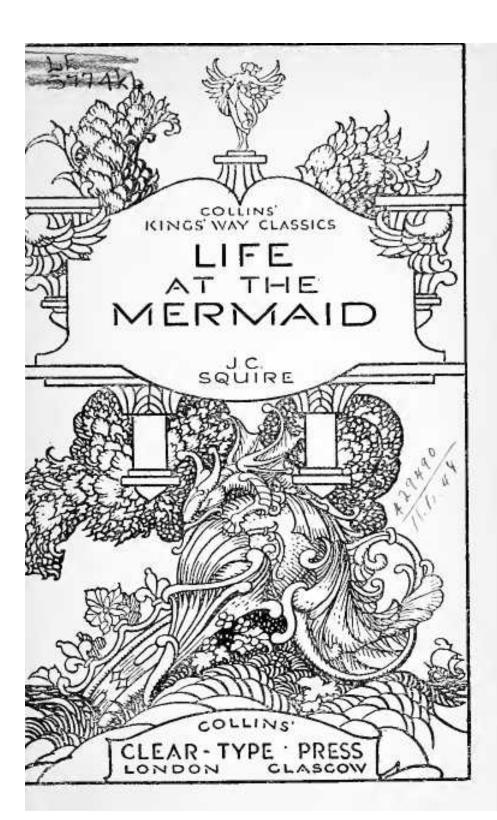
SIR J. C. SQUIRE

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PR 6037 Q5L514

PREFACE

Some of these essays are new in book form; others, by courtesy of Messrs. Heinemann, are chosen from Life and Letters, Books Reviewed, and three volumes entitled Books in General.

A correct title, therefore, would have been Selected Essays. But how dull that sounds. Having toyed with various general abstract titles of the Reflections, Thoughts, and Ruminations type, I fell back on the common resort of poets, and decided to name the book after one of the essays included. On Being a Jonah might have been regarded as too bitterly ironical by the publishers who have rashly taken me aboard; there were other objections to other titles; in the end I chose one which seemed to give the most thoroughly misleading impression of the nature and interest of the book.

J. C. S.

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