

THE SOUL OF MELICENT

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The soul of Melicent by James Branch Cabell

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JAMES BRANCH CABELL

**THE SOUL
OF MELICENT**

THE SOUL OF MELICENT

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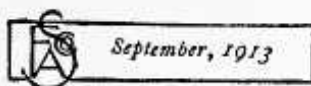


"Demetrios wrenched the sword from its scabbard"

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TO
SARAH READ McADAMS
IN GRATITUDE AND AFFECTION

*O*F how, through Woman-Worship, knaves compound
With honoure; Kings reck not of their domaine;
Proud Pontiffs sigh; & War-men world-renownd,
Toe win one Woman, all things else disdain;
Since Melicent doth in herselfe contayne
All this worlds Riches that may farre be found:
If Saphyres, loe, her eies be Saphyres plaine;
If Rubies, loe, hir lips be Rubyes sound;
If Pearles, hir teeth be Pearles, both pure & round;
If Yvorie, her forehead Yvory weene;
If Gold, her locks with finest Gold abound;
If Silver, her faire hands have Silvers sheen:
Yet that which fayrest is, but Few beholde,
Her Soul adornd with vertues manifold."