

**THE ESSAY ON WALT
WHITMAN, WITH A
LITTLE JOURNEY TO
THE HOME OF WHITMAN**

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The Essay on Walt Whitman, with a Little Journey to the Home of Whitman by Robert Louis Stevenson & Elbert Hubbard

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ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON & ELBERT HUBBARD

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BY

ROBERT
LOUIS
STEVENSON

WITH A LITTLE
JOURNEY TO THE
HOME OF
WHITMAN

BY

ELBERT HUBBARD



THE ROYCROFT SHOP—MCM



All seems beautiful to me.

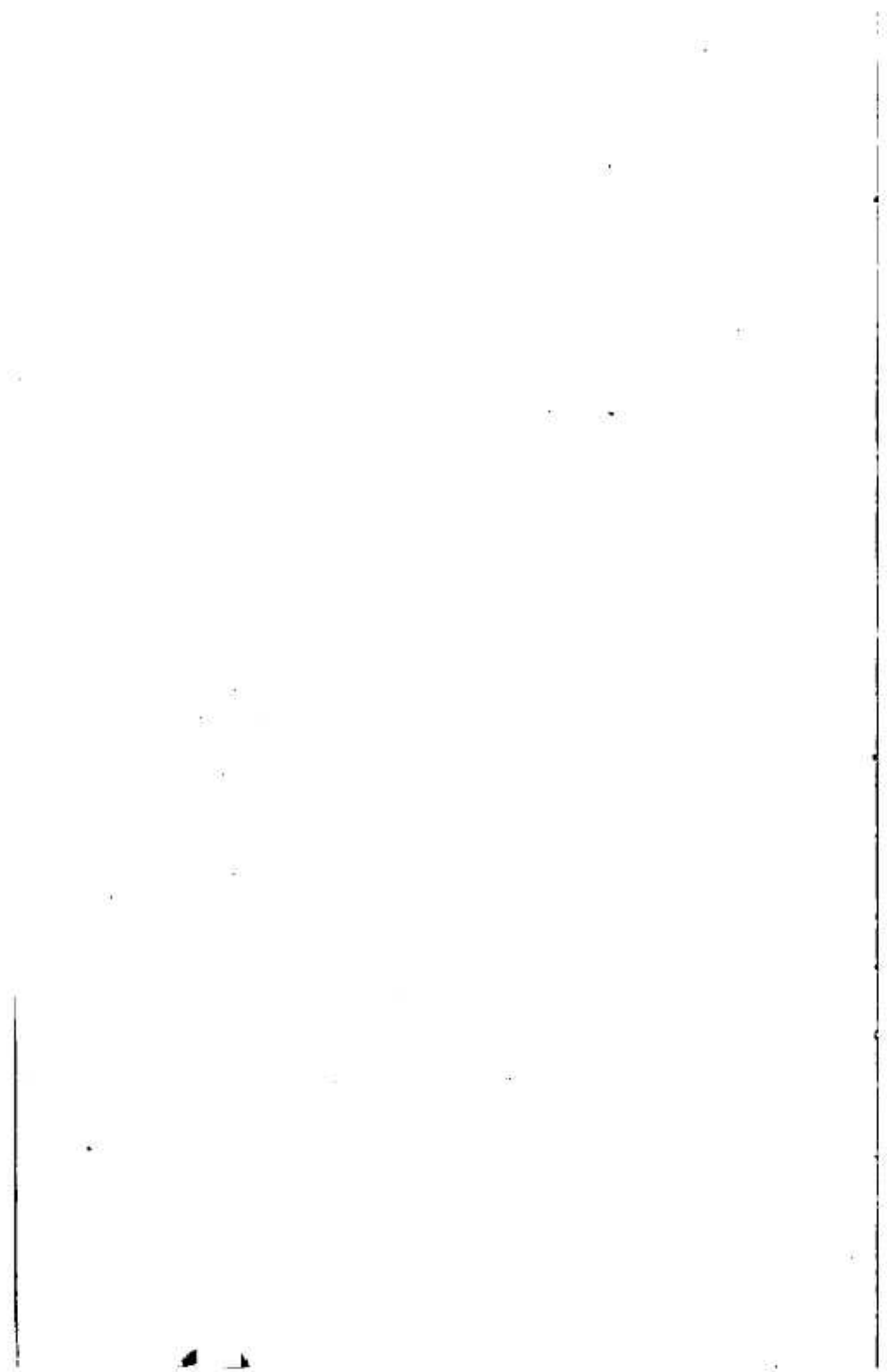
I can repeat over to men and women, You
have done such good to me I would do
the same to you,

I will recruit for myself and you as I go.

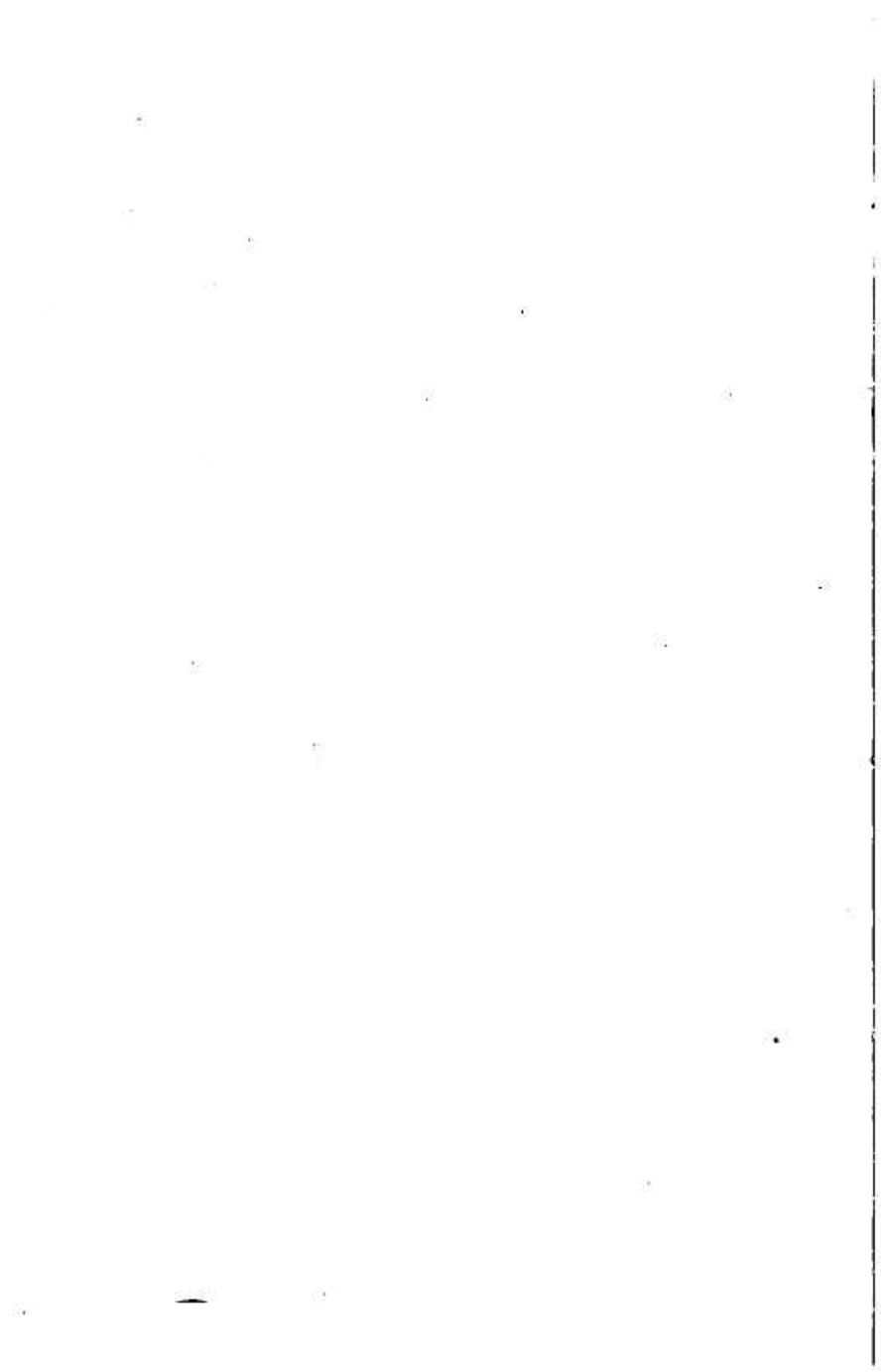
I will scatter myself among men and women
as I go,

I will toss a new gladness and roughness,
among them.

—Song of the Open Road.



A LITTLE JOURNEY
TO THE HOME OF WHITMAN



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AX NORDAU wrote a book—WALT
WHITMAN

wrote it with his tongue in his
cheek, a dash of vitriol in the
ink, & with a pen that scratched.

¶ And the first critic who seem-
ed to place a just estimate on the work was
Mr. Zangwill (who has no Christian name).
Mr. Zangwill made an attempt to swear out
a "writ de lunatico inquirendo" against his
Jewish brother, on the ground that the first
symptom of insanity is often the delusion that
others are insane; and this being so, Dr. Nor-
dau was not a safe subject to be at large. But
the Assize of Public Opinion denied the pe-
tition and the dear people bought the book
at from three to five dollars per copy. Printed
in several languages, its sales have mounted
to a hundred thousand volumes, and the au-
thor's net profit is full forty thousand dollars.
No wonder it is that, with pockets full to
bursting, Dr. Nordau goes out behind the
house and laughs uproariously whenever he
thinks of how he has worked the world!

If Dr. Talmage is the Barnum of Theology,
surely we may call Dr. Nordau the Barnum
of Science. His agility in manipulating facts

WALT is equal to Hermann's now-you-see-it and now-you-don't with pocket handkerchiefs. Yet
WHITMAN Hermann's exhibition is worth the admittance fee, and Nordau's book (seemingly written in collaboration with Jules Verne and Mark Twain) would be cheap for a dollar. But what I object to is Prof. Hermann's disciples posing as Sure-Enough Materializing Mediums and Prof. Lombroso's followers calling themselves Scientists, when each goes forth without scrip or purse with no other purpose than to supply themselves with both.

Yet it was Barnum himself who said that the public delights in being humbugged, and strange it is that we will not allow ourselves to be thimble-rigged without paying for the privilege.

Nordau's success hinged on his audacious assumption that the public knows nothing of the Law of Antithesis. Yet Plato explained that the opposite of things look alike, and sometimes are alike, and that was quite awhile ago.

The multitude answered: "Thou hast a devil"; Many of them said: "He hath a devil and is mad"; Festus said with a loud