

QUEST

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Quest by Thomas Sinclair

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THOMAS SINCLAIR

QUEST

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BY

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"GODDESS FORTUNE," "THE MESSENGER," "LOVE'S TRILOGY,"
"THE MOUNT," ETC.



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PREFACE.

THE thought indicated by the title of these essays is that in speculation there may be search but no absolute finding. It is in the very constitution of prose words that part must be taken as symbol for the whole. In mathematics and poetry alone can such a conclusion be evaded, these being the only exact knowledge in the round of human experience. The chronic wandering for light in political and social economies, is ample proof of the impossibility of reaching fixed truths. But this is health and a reason of hope rather than despair for mankind, because life can never become an extinct volcano of realised ideals. Every new day, not to say age, will have its fresh problems to enrich experience and exercise the judgment. No optimism which the most sentimental dreamer ever hatched will bind the always coming intellect, and no pessimism of

the inkiest black can shut off from the undying interest that actually is connected with the race. There may perhaps be too much evidence that it is in this spirit *Quest* has been written.

As to the finish which the original structure of the book admitted, there must be the fullest acknowledgment of the skilful collaboration of * * *, to whose favour it owes possibly its only attractive features.

LONDON, 1885.

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