THE QUEST OF HAPPINESS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649150069

The quest of happiness by Philip Gilbert Hamerton

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

PHILIP GILBERT HAMERTON

THE QUEST OF HAPPINESS



THE QUEST OF HAPPINESS

THE

QUEST OF HAPPINESS

BY

PHILIP GILBERT HAMERTON

AUTHOR OF "THE INTELLECTUAL LIFE," "THOUGHTS ABOUT ART,"

"A PAINTER'S CAMP," "ETCHERS AND ETCHING,"

"HUMAN INTERCOURSE," ETC.



BOSTON ROBERTS BROTHERS 1897 Repl 201857

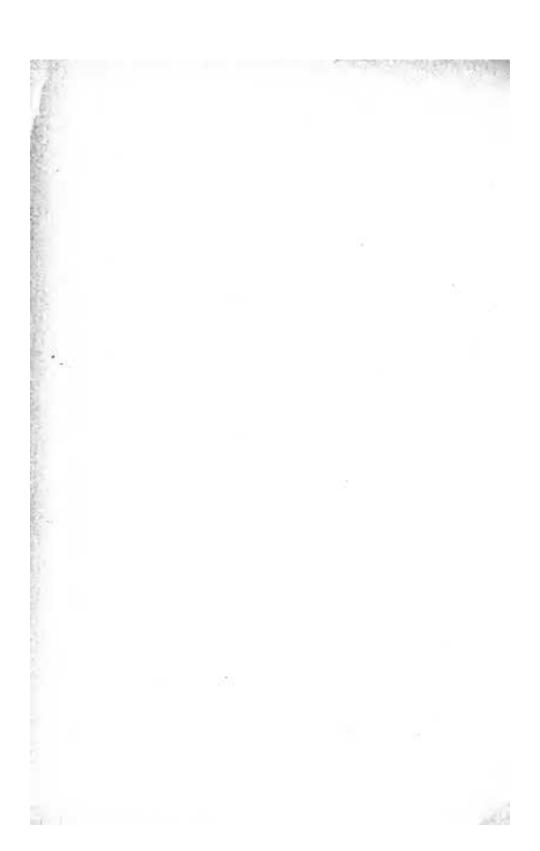
Copyright, 1897, By Roberts Brothers.

Unibersity Press: John Wilson and Son, Cameridge, U.S.A.

BJ 1481

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.	A Definition	PAGE
II.	The Author neither Optimist nor Pes-	
	SIMIST	5
III.	On the Dual Nature of Happiness	11
IV.	On Happiness as a Gift of Nature	31
v.	How Our Happiness is Incomplete	52
VI.	THE IMPERFECTION OF THE HIGHER HAP-	
	PINESS	60
VII.	THE ORIGIN OF THE IDEAL	66
VIII.	Happiness and the Ideal	76
IX.	THE SENSE OF REALITY	86
X.	HAPPINESS IN OUR OCCUPATIONS	103
XI.	CONGENIALITY OF OCCUPATION	108
XII.	INSUFFICIENCY OF GIFTS	118
XIII.	On the Question whether Our Har-	
	PINESS IN THE USE OF OUR FACULTIES	
	IS IN PROPORTION TO THEIR STRENGTH .	132
XIV.	THAT EVERY TIME OF LIFE HAS A HAP-	
	PINESS PECULIAR TO ITSELF	138
XV.	OF THE PERFECTION OF THE SENSES	150
XVI.	GROUNDS FOR RATIONAL ENCOURAGEMENT .	165
XVII.	SOME REAL EXPERIENCES	175



INTRODUCTION

In the "Journal Intime,"—that Thomas à Kempis of our century,—we are told that "the unfinished is nothing." Was not this the explanation of Amiel's ineffective life? Did he not glance too disdainfully over the lower world, forsooth because it was "unfinished"? Did he not sit, a too scornful guest, at the bountiful table of the actual, leaving its viands untouched and its wines untasted, dreaming always of a nectar and ambrosia which only the gods on Olympus may taste?

According to the dictum of the gentle Swiss pessimist we ought to reject Dürer's famous crayon sketches, Coleridge's weird "Christabel," and Buckle's magnificent fragment, "The History of Civilization." Nor would modern lovers of fiction be permitted to relax their minds over Stevenson's "Weir of Hermiston," or Pater's "Gaston de la Tour."

Indeed, Amiel carried this philosophy of "the unfinished" so far as to give up most of the ordinary sources of happiness in life; he felt their imperfections too intensely; and no one of them exactly corresponded to his own lofty ideal.

The unfinished work of the world's great men is, however, to many readers, fraught with a peculiar interest and charm. The sketches in some great artist's portfolio may be more suggestive than his masterpiece; and the imagination may be more stirred by a head, in outline, than by a carefully finished portrait.

Amiel's quest for happiness was a quest for an ideal, which he tried to impose upon the outer universe, but which really existed only within his own pure mind. It was this attitude of his mind which was largely responsible for much of the melancholy of his life. He could not or would not see, with the clearness of Philip Gilbert Hamerton, that "the Ideal, when it transforms itself into a hope for the present life, is a sure forerunner of disappointment."

To see the Ideal, and to realize the impossibility of attaining it, and then deliberately to set about the task of contenting one's self with