

THE ROMANCE OF NAUSICAA

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The Romance of Nausicaa by Nathan Haskell Dole

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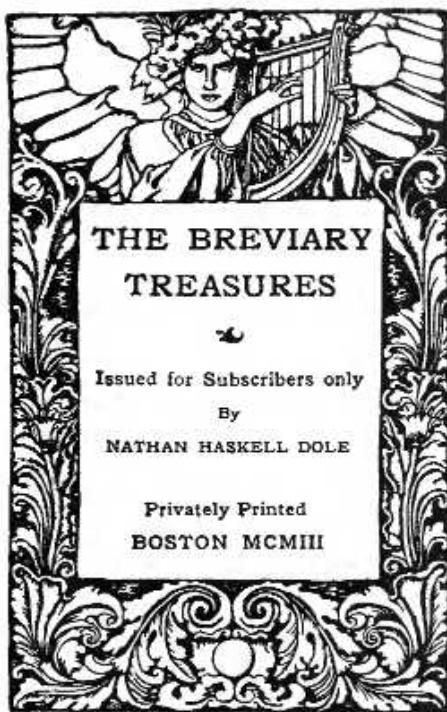
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NATHAN HASKELL DOLE

**THE ROMANCE
OF NAUSICAA**





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1904. 2000. 1000. 1000. 1000. 1000.

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INTRODUCTION

No other poem in all the literature of the world excels or equals the *Odyssey* in variety of interest. Its hero is the type of the gallant adventurer, and his journeyings take him into the Fairylands that delight children of a larger growth. Odysseus was the King of Ithaca, and Ithaca was a tiny island west of Greece. He was the most distant of the feudal princes that fought with Agamemnon for the purpose of winning back from Paris of Troy, Helen, the runaway wife of Agamemnon's brother Menelaus. After the ten years' war, which is described in the *Iliad*, Odysseus sets sail for his rugged kingdom. Just as he is about doubling Cape Malena, from which a short run would have brought him

home to Penelope and his ten-year-old son Telemachus, a violent storm drives him far away to the land of the Lotus-eaters. Escaping from the perils of sweet forgetfulness, he and his ships reach the abode of the Cyclops, a race of fierce shepherd-giants. Captured by Polyphemus and confined in a cave, Odysseus blinds the cannibal and escapes by "a punning device." Poseidon, the god of the sea, avenges the injury done to his son's single eye: Odysseus has in consequence long years of exile before him.

He goes to the land of Æolus, who gives him a bag filled with all the winds save that one that would speed him to Ithaca in ten days. But when they are already in sight of home, the inquisitive sailors open the fatal bag, and back they are blown to the kingdom of the winds. In Lamos they again fall into the hands of cannibals, and only Odysseus with one ship escapes to the island of Circe, where the beautiful enchantress transforms the crew into swine. Hermes comes to their aid. They are redeemed by the herb moly, and after a year spent in