THE LIFE BEYOND: THIS MORTAL MUST PUT ON IMMORTALITY

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The Life Beyond: This Mortal Must Put on Immortality by George H. Hepworth

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GEORGE H. HEPWORTH

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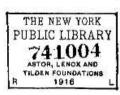
GEORGE H. HEPWORTH.

AUTHOR OF "HIRAM GOLF'S BELIGION," "THEY MEY IN HEAVEN," ETC.

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It has given me a great deal of pleasure to write this little book. The experiences of a long ministry have been recalled, and I have lived my life all over again.

I am specially gratified, however, by the conviction that I have not made a single statement which in any true sense can be called original. As an author, that fact, perhaps, cannot be regarded as a source of pride; but as a lover of my kind it gives me unspeakable joy.

Every question which is asked has been put to some Master a thousand times in the generations gone by. The doubts expressed have been the sad inheritance of every age since man first began to wonder and to think. The answers, also, which fall from my Master's lips, have been the gift of faith to a struggling world ever since the morning stars sang together.

It is simply my privilege to tell the old story in my own way; and if it be true that no word of comfort is ever uttered in vain, I may be permitted to hope that even these pages will carry good cheer to some forlorn or wearied soul that gropes in the darkness and longs for the light. Is the lost friend still mysteriously here, even as we are here mysteriously, with God? Know of a truth that only the Time-shadows have perished, or are perishable; that the real Being of whatever was, and whatever is, and whatever will be, is even now and forever. This, should it unhappily seem new, thou mayest ponder at thy leisure, —for the next twenty years, or the next twenty centuries. Believe it thou must; understand it thou canst not.— CARLYLE.



THE LIFE BEYOND.

CHAPTER I.

A HANDFUL OF SAND.

HAVE always called him "The Master." This title seemed to be his by right of mental and moral superiority. He has been my most intimate and my most revered friend from childhood, — the soul of my soul, from whom I should regard it a sacrilege to hide either my hopes or my fears. A man formed "in the prodigality of nature," he would, I am sure, advise me for my best good even at great cost to himself. I have never had cause to doubt either his wisdom or his unselfishness.

It may be a little difficult to fix the fine lineaments of his face in your mind's