

THE QUEST

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The quest by John G. Neihardt

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JOHN G. NEIHARDT

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BY

JOHN G. NEIHARDT

AUTHOR OF

"THE SONG OF HUGH GLASS"

New York

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To

THE WOMEN OF MY FAMILY

"MIGHTY GIVERS, MEAGRE TAKERS,
MOTHER, SISTER, WIFE."

357992

NOTE

IN selecting the material for this volume, chiefly from my three former collections of lyrics, *A Bundle of Myrrh* (1907), *Man-Song* (1909), and *The Stranger at the Gate* (1912), it has been my intention to include only those poems which, having been read widely, have won approval.

The careful reader will doubtless note that the present arrangement of the poems is not arbitrary, having been determined in accordance with the succession of attitudes toward life incident to growth out of the erotic period into manhood. Such a reader, therefore, will not pass judgment on the whole book according as his temperament and individual experience have prepared him to like or dislike any isolated section; rather, he will be likely to appraise the volume as an organic thing.

I have retained all but five poems of *A Bundle of Myrrh*. That sequence seems to have become fixed in the consciousness of many, and its continuous appeal would seem to testify to its veracity as one record of a common human experience. That cycle and the subsequent group of