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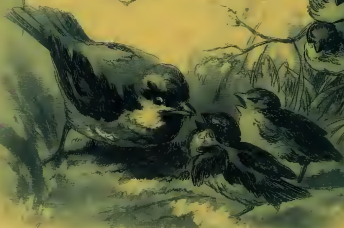
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Good
and
True
Thoughts



from
Robert
Browning

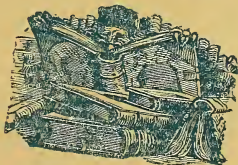


GOOD
AND
TRUE THOUGHTS
FROM
ROBERT BROWNING

*Life means learning
to abhor
The false and love
the true.—*

Fine at the Fair.

6524
** Selected by Amy Cross **



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1888

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GOOD AND TRUE THOUGHTS

FROM

ROBERT BROWNING.

— Into the truth of things,—
Out of their falseness rise, and reach
thou and remain !

Fifine at the Fair.

God's gift was, that man should
conceive of truth
And yearn to gain it, catching at
mistake,
As midway help, till he reach fact
indeed.

A Death in the Desert.

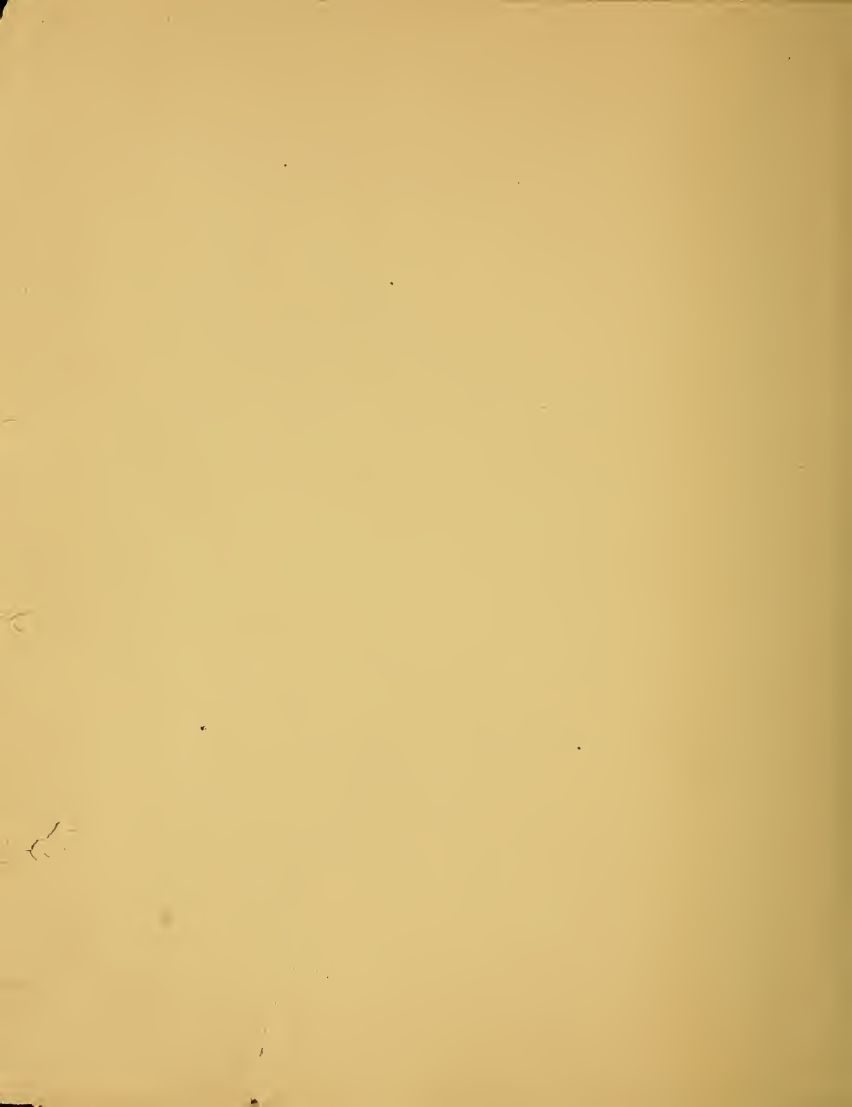
— There's nothing in nor out
o' the world
Good, except truth.

The Ring and the Book.

Hear the truth, and bear the truth,
And bring the truth to bear on all you are,
And do, assured that only good comes
thence

Whate'er the shape good take !

Prince Hohenstiel Schwanganau.



Learn life's lesson : hate of evil,
love of good.

La Saisiaz.

And consequent upon the learning how
from strife
Grew peace,—from evil, good,—came
knowledge, that to get
Acquaintance with the way o' the world,
we must nor fret
Nor fume on altitudes of self-sufficiency,
But bid a frank farewell to what—we
think—should be—
And with as good a grace, welcome
what is—we find.

Fifine at the Fair.

Man's work is to labor and leaven—
As best he may—earth here with heaven ;
'Tis work for work's sake that he's needing :
Let him work on and on as if speeding
Work's end, but not dream of succeeding !
Because if success were intended,
Why heaven would begin ere earth ended.

Of Pacchiarotto.



4 GOOD AND TRUE THOUGHTS.

—A man's reach should exceed his grasp.
Or what's a heaven for?

Andrea del Sarto.

—This world's no blot for us,
Nor blank—it means intensely, and
means good.

Lippo Lippi.

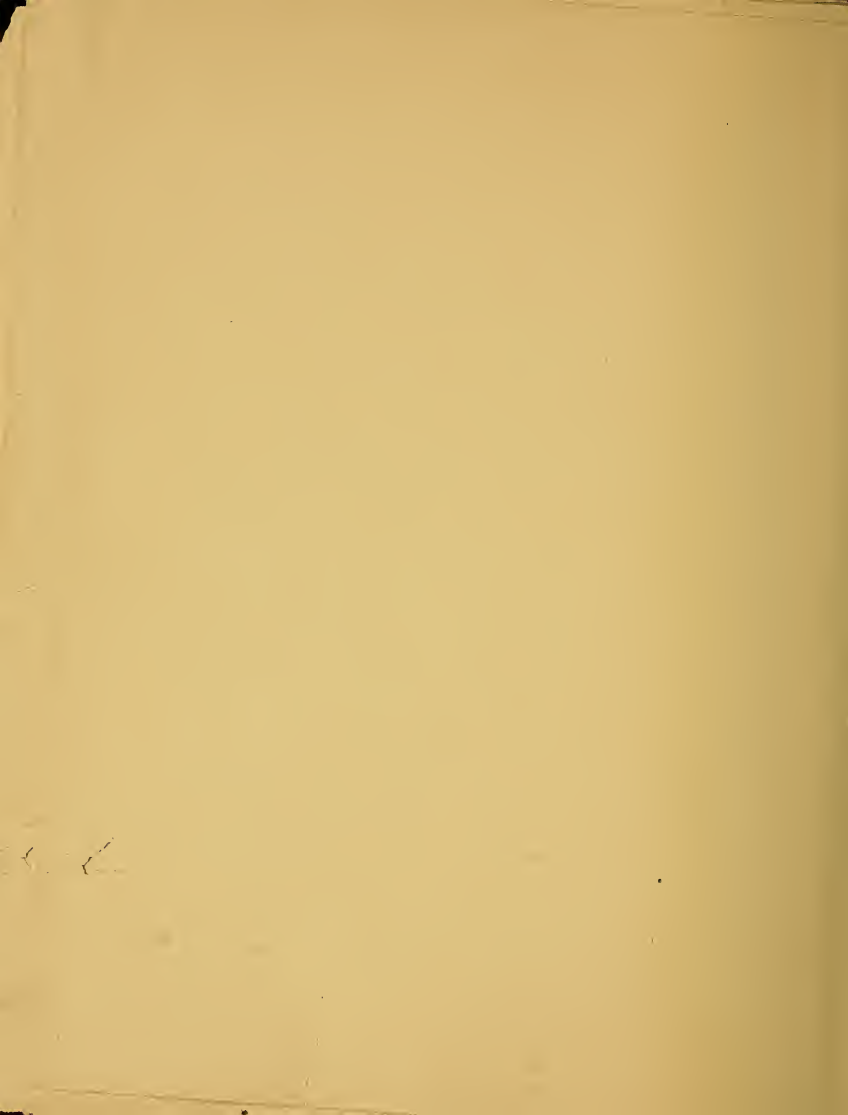
The common problem, yours, mine,
every one's,
Is not to fancy what were fair in life
Provided it could be—but finding first
What may be, then find how to make it
fair

Up to our means—a very different thing!

Bishop Blougram.

—I count life just a stuff
To try the soul's strength on, educe
the man.

In a Balcony.



Poor vaunt of life indeed,
Were man but formed to feed
On joy, to solely seek and find and feast ;
Such feasting ended, then,
As sure an end to men ;—

Rabbi Ben Ezra.

Who knows what's fit for us ? Had fate
Proposed bliss here should sublimate
My being ; had I signed the bond —
Still one must lead some life beyond
— Have a bliss to die with, dim-descried.
This foot once planted on the goal,
This glory-garland round my soul,
Could I descry such ? Try and test !
I sink back shuddering from the quest.
Earth being so good, would Heaven seem
best ?

The Last Ride Together.

This life is brief, and troubles die with it :
Where were the prick to soar up
homeward, else ?

The Ring and the Book.



6 GOOD AND TRUE THOUGHTS.

Then welcome each rebuff,
That turns earth's smoothness rough,
Each sting, that bids nor sit nor stand,
 but go !
Be our joys three parts pain,
Strive, and hold cheap the strain ;
Learn, nor account the pang ; dare,
 never grudge the throe !

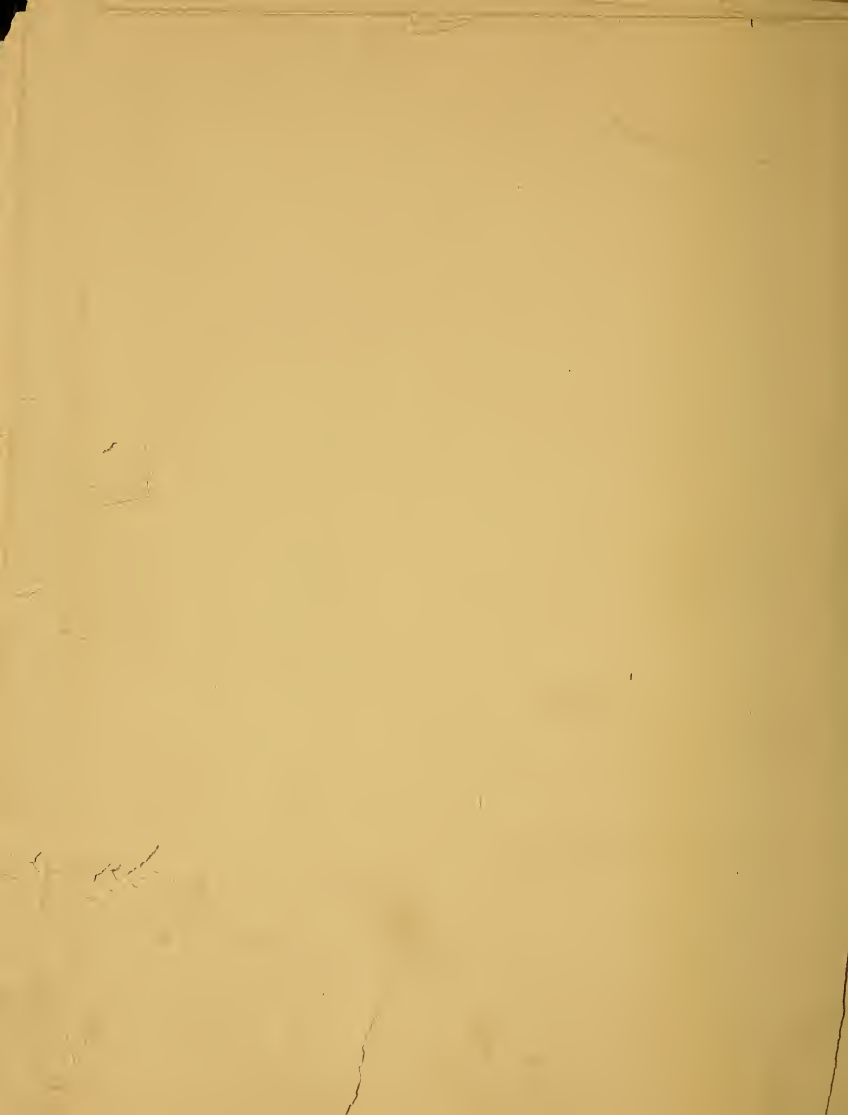
Rabbi Ben Ezra.

The man taught enough by life's
 dream, of the rest to make sure,
By the pain-throb, triumphantly
 winning intensified bliss,
And the next world's reward and
 repose, by the struggle in this.

Saul.

Through the outward sign, the inward
 grace allures,
And sparks from heaven transpierce
 earth's coarsest covertures.

Fifine at the Fair.



There shall never be one lost good !
What was, shall live as before ;
The evil is null, is naught, is silence
implying sound ;
What was good, shall be good, with,
for evil, so much good more ;
On the earth the broken arcs ; in the
Heaven, a perfect round.

All we have willed or hoped or dreamed
of good, shall exist ;
Not its likeness, but itself ; no beauty,
nor good, nor power
Whose voice has gone forth, but each
survives for the melodist,
When eternity affirms the conception
of an hour.

Abt Vogler.

I trust in God — The Right shall be
the Right.
And other than the Wrong, while He
endures —
I trust in my own soul, that can perceive
The outward and the inward, nature's good,
And God's —

A Soul's Tragedy.



So absolutely good is truth, truth never
hurts
The teller, whose worst crime gets
somehow grace, avowed.

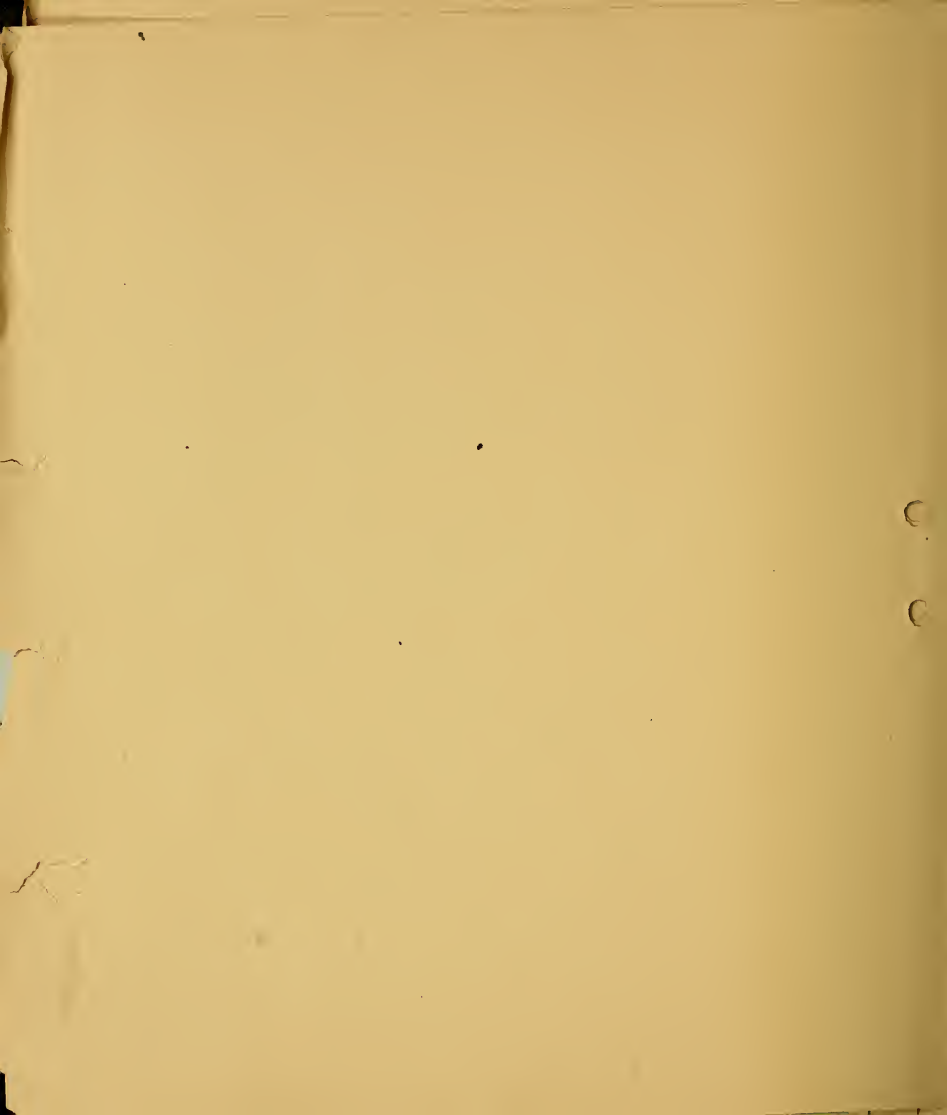
Fifine at the Fair.

— Aspire, break bounds ! I say
Endeavor to be good, and better still,
And best ! success is naught, endeavor's all.

Turf and Towers.

It's wiser being good than bad ;
It's safer being meek than fierce :
It's fitter being sane than mad.
My own hope is, a sun will pierce
The thickest cloud earth ever stretched ;
That, after Last, returns the First,
Though a wide compass round be fetched ;
That what began best, can't end worst,
Nor what God blest once, prove accurst.

Apparent Failure.



Why stay we on the earth unless
to grow?

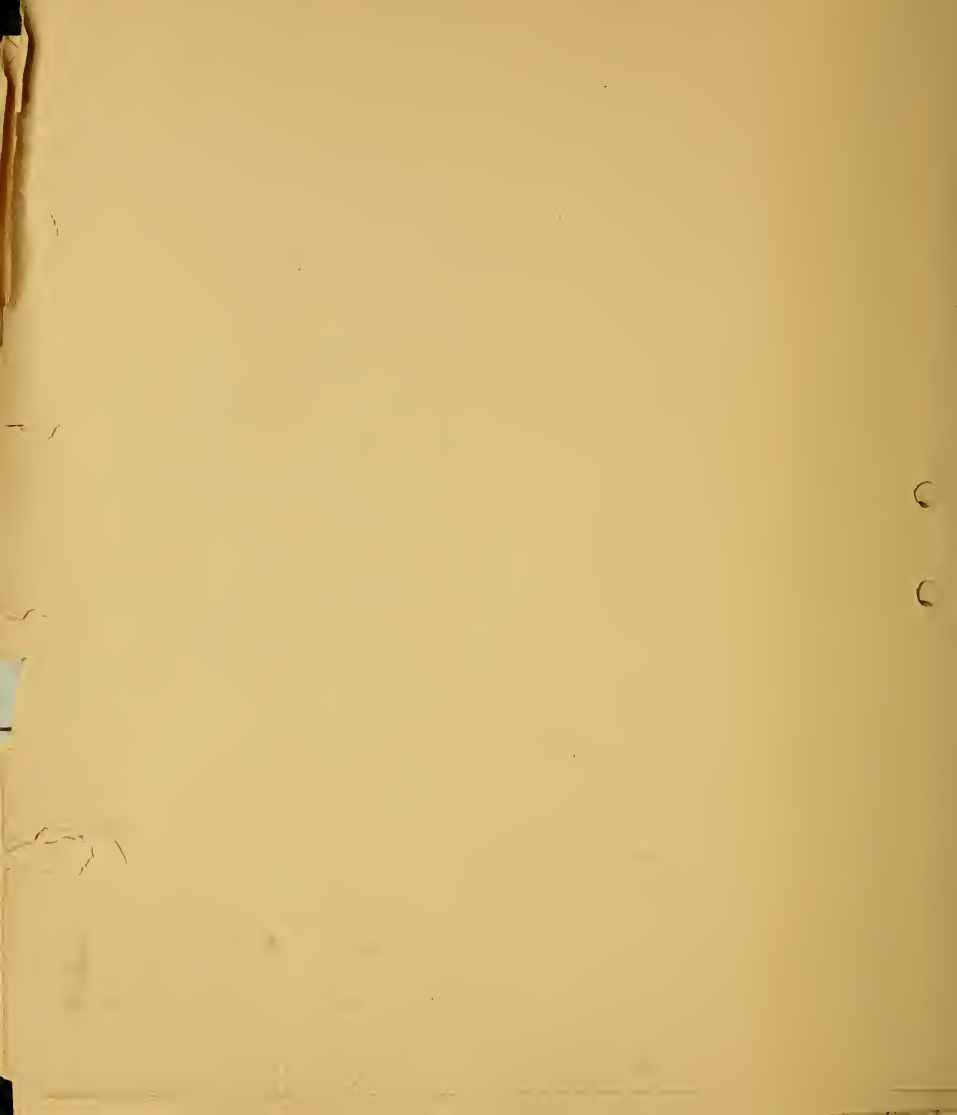
Cleon.

'Tis a life-long toil till our lump be
leaven —
The better! what's come to perfection
perishes.
Things learned on earth, we shall
practice in heaven.
Works done least rapidly, Art most
cherishes.

Old Pictures in Florence.

——— What were life
Did soul stand still therein, forego her
strife
Through the ambiguous Present, to the
goal
Of some all-reconciling Future?
Soul,
Nothing has been, which shall not
bettered be,
Hereafter,—

Gerard de Lairese.



Was it not great? did he not throw
on God,
(He loves the burthen) —
God's task to make the heavenly period
perfect the earthen?

The Grammarian's Funeral.

Of Wrong make Right, and turn Ill
Good, below.

Sordello.

Let things be—not seem,
I counsel rather,—do, and nowise dream.

Gerard de Lairese.

— From the beginning love is whole
And true; if sure of naught beside,
most sure
Of its own truth at least;—

Sordello.



12 GOOD AND TRUE THOUGHTS.

Love bids touch truth, endure truth,
and embrace
Truth, though, embracing truth, love
crush itself.

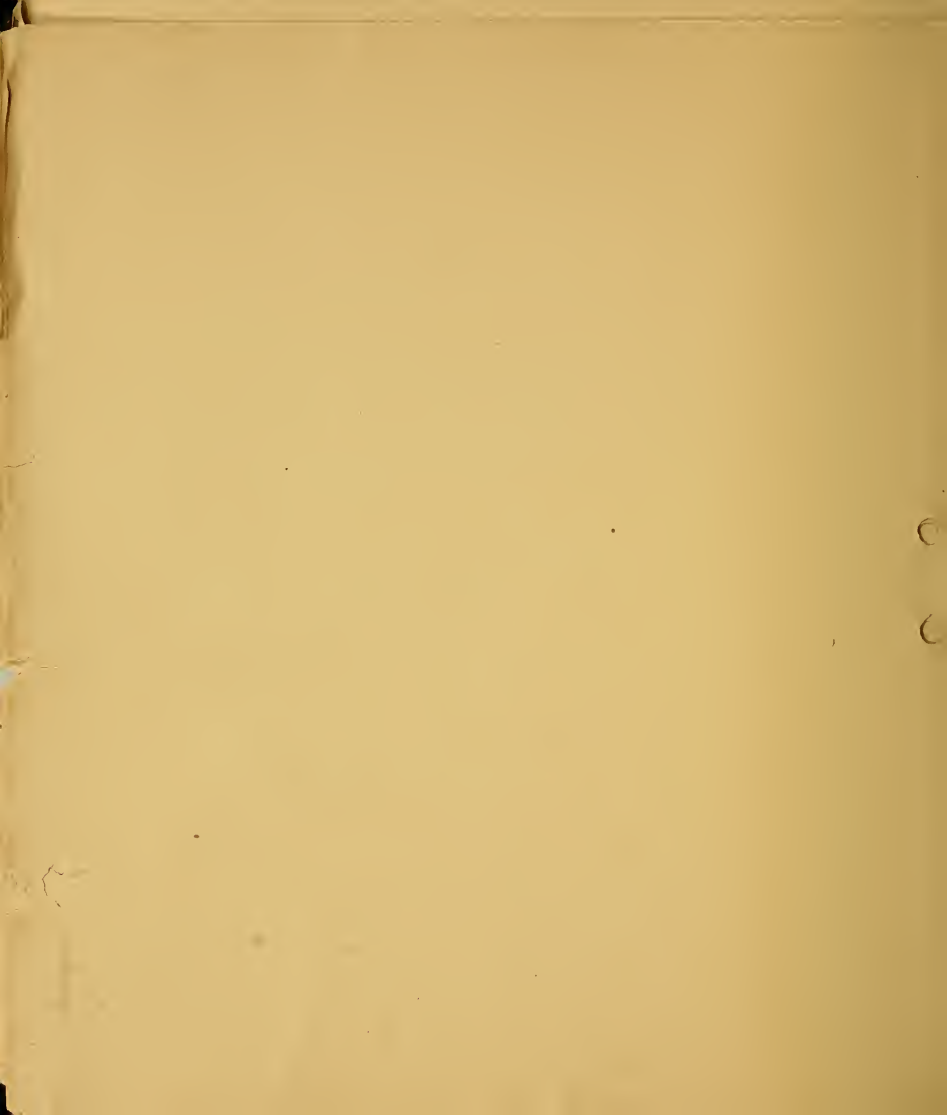
Turf and Towers.

To have to do with nothing but the true,
The good, the eternal.

The Ring and the Book.

Such was my rule of life: I worked
my best,
Subject to ultimate judgment,—God's
not man's.

Prince Hohenstiel Schwangau.



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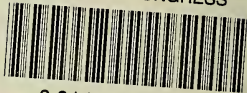


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