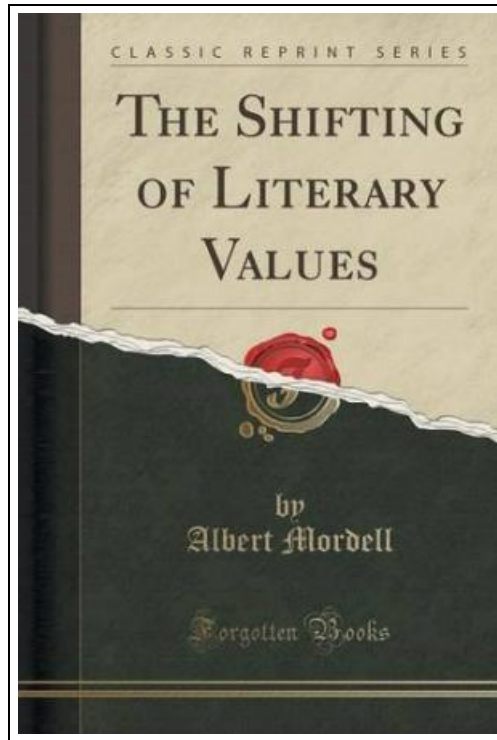


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The Shifting of Literary Values The author of the following essay has undertaken to establish that changes in morality must affect literary values, that some of the classics idealize views of life now obsolete, that these books are therefore responsible for the existence of some of our moral and intellectual stagnancy, and that a new critical outlook upon them is called for. This essay is not the result of a mere desire to dethrone literary idols, but has been the product of a conviction fortified by years of extensive reading and careful deliberation, that literature, having been the depository of men s thoughts in the past, must wane in artistic value, after the world has discovered that these ideas were false. The author has purposely endeavored not to allow himself to be influenced by the grand eulogies that have heretofore been pronounced upon these classics; he has resolved not to be daunted even when the oldest and most famous books are involved. But while differing from the doctrines of life taught by them, he has tried to maintain the utmost respect for both book and author. For instance, while he shares the opinions of Taine and Johnson in regard to Paradise Lost, he most ardently admires the personality of Milton. Though he confesses to have been bored by the Iliad and believes that it has been too extravagantly praised, he is greatly moved by the speeches in the sixth, twenty-second and twenty-fourth books. He has also remembered that it is best not to advance ones views in too polemic a spirit; that an undignified defense of the truth itself may displease the reader more than...



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