

# CONTENTS

## I

### INTRODUCTION

Page 3

*Lucretius, Dante, and Goethe sum up the chief phases of European philosophy,—naturalism, supernaturalism, and romanticism : Ideal relation between philosophy and poetry.*

## II

### LUCRETIVS

Page 19

*Development of Greek cosmology : Democritus : Epicurean moral sentiment : Changes inspired by it in the system of Democritus : Accidental alliance of materialism with hedonism : Imaginative value of naturalism : The Lucretian Venus, or the propitious movement in nature : The Lucretian Mars, or the destructive movement : Preponderant melancholy, and the reason for it : Materiality of the soul : The fear of death and the fear of life : Lucretius a true poet of nature : Comparison with Shelley and Wordsworth : Things he might have added consistently : Indefeasible worth of his insight and sentiment.*

## III

### DANTE

Page 73

*Character of Platonism : Its cosmology a parable : Combination of this with Hebraic philosophy of history : Theory of the Papacy and the Empire adopted by Dante : His judgement on Florence : Dante as a lyric poet : Beatrice the woman, the symbol, and the reality : Love, magic, and symbolism constitutive principles of Dante's universe : Idea of the Divine Comedy : The scheme of virtues and vices : Retributive theory of rewards and punishments : Esoteric view of this, which makes even punishment intrinsic to the sins : Examples : Dantesque cosmography : The genius of the poet : His universal scope : His triumphant execution of the Comedy : His defects, in spite of which he remains the type of a supreme poet.*

## IV

## GOETHE'S FAUST

Page 139

*The romantic spirit : The ideals of the Renaissance : Expression of both in the legendary Faust : Marlowe's version : Tendency to vindicate Faust : Contrast with Calderon's "Wonder-working Magician" : The original Faust of Goethe,—universal ambition and eternal dissatisfaction : Modifications : The series of experiments in living : The story of Gretchen fitted in : Goethe's naturalistic theory of life and rejuvenation : Helen : The classic manner and the judgement on classicism : Faust's last ambition : The conflict over his soul and his ascent to heaven symbolical : Moral of the whole.*

## V

## CONCLUSION

Page 203

*Comparison of the three poets : Their relative rank : Ideal of a philosopher or comprehensive poet : Untried possibilities of art.*