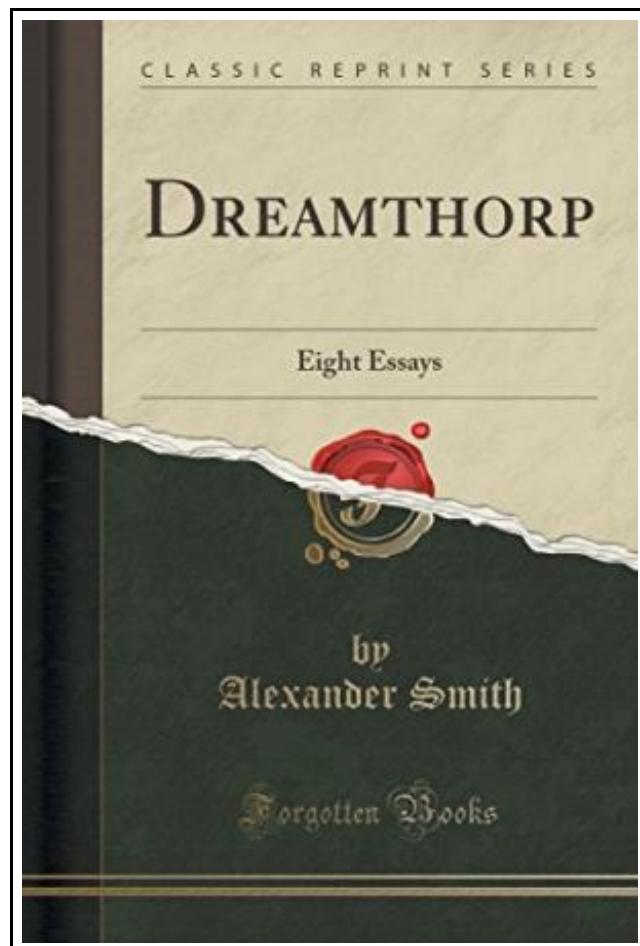


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Dreamthorp: Eight Essays The title-essay of this volume may be described as the best-loved-least-known essay in English letters. Many readers have never even heard of it; among those who know it there has developed a cult which is unbounded in its affectionate devotion. Alexander Smith, who wrote this success d estime, died on January 5th, 1867, only five days after he had completed his thirty-sixth year. His background had been commonplace; his first literary work to be published a poem in the Glasgow Evening Citizen. A few poems then appeared in London publications; and in 1853, when he was only twenty-three, his Poems was published. This first book, and especially that part of it called A Life-Drama, was a phenomenal success. It was received with applause so loud and unanimous that the morning when Byron awoke and found himself famous has been spoken of as the closest parallel. Smith was called the greatest poet since Keats; he was called a greater poet than Keats; he was rated with Tennyson; he was compared with Shakespeare. But within a year W. E. Aytoun had parodied Smith (and Sydney Dobell) in a piece called Firmilian, and such was the success of this parody, although it was not written with malice, that Smith lost his poetic reputation almost as fast as he had found it, and was tagged with its damning phrase Spasmodic Poet for the rest of his life. Smith is said to have taken the parody and his subsequent poetic eclipse with dignity and good humor, just as he had taken his first success with real modesty. Smith had abandoned his father s trade, pattern-maker for Paisley...

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