



The Unknowable: The Herbert Spencer Lecture Delivered at Oxford, 24 October, 1923 (Classic Reprint) (Paperback)

By Professor George Santayana

Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The Unknowable: The Herbert Spencer Lecture Delivered at Oxford, 24 October, 1923 Your kind invitation to deliver the Herbert Spencer Lecture of this year, apart from the honour and pleasure it brings me, enables me to perform a small act of piety. On the whole, with qualifications which will appear presently, I belong to Herbert Spencer's camp; and I am glad of so favourable an opportunity to offer a grain of propitiatory incense to his shade, which I feel to be wandering in our midst somewhat reproachfully. Fashion has completely deserted him, and the course of evolution in which he trusted has not taken his hints. Even where some philosophy of evolution is still in vogue, it is not his philosophy, but perhaps that of Hegel or Bergson, who conceive evolution as imposed on nature by some magic or dialectical force, contrary to an alleged helplessness in matter. Such devices were far removed from the innocence of Herbert Spencer, who dutifully gathered reports from every quarter and let them settle as they would in...

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