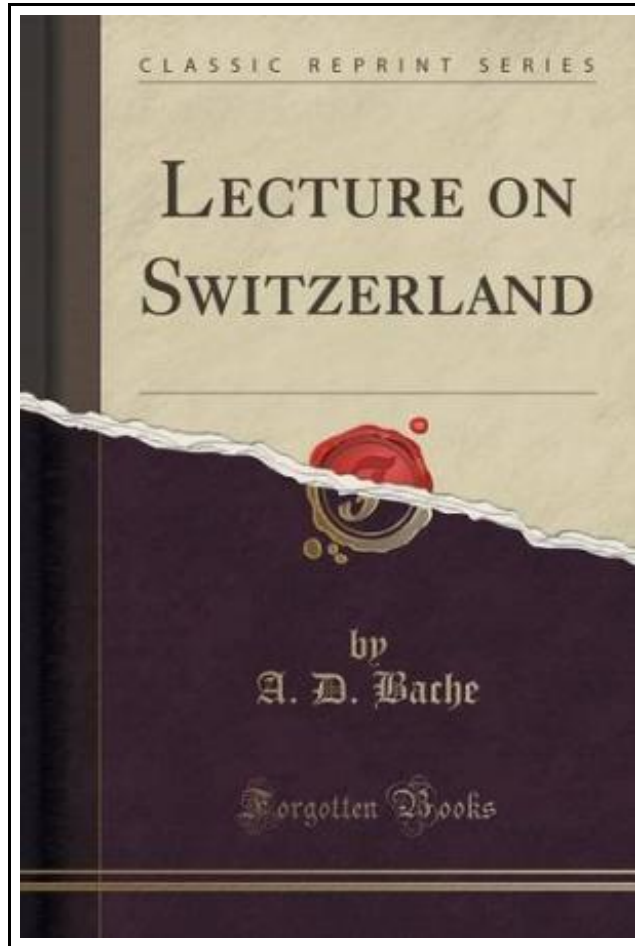


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Lecture on Switzerland Travelers relate that in certain conditions of the atmosphere a spectator standing upon the shore at Reggio, and looking upon the smooth waters of the Straits of Messina, sees suddenly, rise before him, as if by magic, the walls, towers, palaces, domes, and streets of a city, in which mimic life goes on, men and animals moving noiselessly to and fro. The illusion is as complete as if the waters of the bay were a foundation upon which the genii of the lamp or of the ring had suddenly erected their magic structures. This is an extreme case of the ordinary illusion presented to those who, in a calm clear day, look at distant objects across a wide expanse of bay or river. Familiar forms are strangely distorted; level shores appear precipitous; the puny sloop swells into the size of a frigate; the fisherman s boat becomes a dismasted sloop, and its occupant a giant. Just so it is when in mental vision we attempt to look through an atmosphere disturbed by the habits and prejudices to which we are accustomed. Unreal towers and walls appear, and objects so lose their shapes that the most familiar forms escape recognition. Every country has its prejudices resulting from education, from all the influences, political, moral, social, and physical which surround and act upon its citizens. By these, in general, the observer of men and things is biased, and he who through the mists of his national or personal prejudices seeks to realize their just forms and proportions, may mistake the pigmy for a giant, the shallop for a frigate. In estimating the institutions of...



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