



Through the ivory gate: studies in psychology and history.

William W. Ireland

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The Blot on the Brain. The historical and psychological studies may be considered as a continuation of the papers in that book on Mohammed, Joan of Arc, Mohammed Toghlaq, and others. All the characters described in the present work, in my opinion, suffered from some mental derangement. They were led away by delusions or uncontrollable passions from the right comprehension of things, or the right line of conduct. In figurative language, they were visited by spectres which passed through the Ivory Gate. For those unlearned in Greek and Latin it may not be superfluous to observe that the earliest allusion to this fancy occurs in Book XIX. of the Odyssey, line 562, which is thus translated by Pope :Immured within the silent bower of sleep, Two portals firm the various phantoms keep :O ivory one ;whence flit to mock the brain, Of winged lies a light fantastic train :The gate opposed pellucid valves adorn, And columns fair incased with polished horn, Where images of truth for passage wait, With visions manifest of future fate. Virgil, who delights to reproduce Homer's fine passages, makes Æneas pass from the Elysian fields out of the Ivory Gate (i ExE iDOS, vi. 1.

(Typographical errors above are due to OCR software and don't occur in the book.)

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