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A STUDY OF THE ELEMENTS OF MYSTERY AND TERROR

IN THE TALES OF E. T. W. HOFFMANN AND E. A. POE.

Submitted by Edward W. Locher.

University of California.

in Partial Satisfaction of the Requirements

for the Degree of Master of Letters.

May, 1908

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Edward William Looker

PREFACE.

The comparative study of two authors such as Hoffmann and Poe is by no means a new and unexplored field of critical research. The extent of the comparative study of two authors, in respect to their use of the elements of mystery and terror, has been, however, quite limited and, in the case of the two writers above-named, little more seems to have been done than mere suggestion such as is found in the "Introduction to the Tales" by E. C. Stedman in the Woodberry-Stedman edition, and the more recent article of Mr. Gruener in Volume XIX of the "Publications of the Modern Language Association".

The present essay aims at two things: first, to present a discussion of the elements of mystery and terror, particularly as relates to their use in

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literature, and, in the second place, to illustrate the use of these elements by a study of the tales of Hoffmann and Poe. It does not pretend to have handled the subject exhaustively, nor even to have the merit of scientific accuracy and precision, but the writer hopes that what he has done may encourage others to carry further the study of this interesting subject and, perhaps, to awaken increased interest in the two authors under consideration.

The writer desires, in this connection, to express his appreciation of the aid rendered him by friends and instructors. In particular, thanks are due to Professor Kurt for timely suggestions as to method and sources, as well as for ideas derived from his "Ballad and Epic", and from an unpublished article, "Tentative Conclusions based on the Tales of E. A. Poe, in Volumes I-III", written in November, 1899. To Professor Kurtz thanks are due for suggestions in relation to the treatment of history and

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terror, and for ideas taken from his unpublished study of "The Marvellous". Special privileges, accorded by the University of California library, which have aided greatly in the work involved in the preparation of this essay, are gratefully acknowledged by the writer.

Berkeley, California.

April 21, 1908.

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