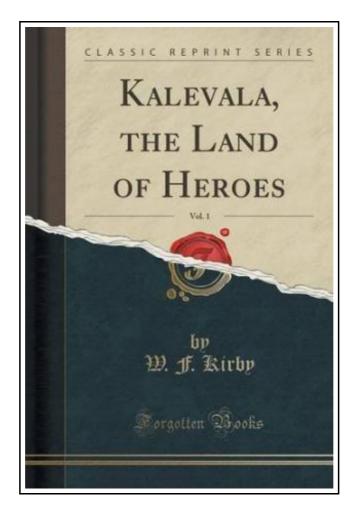
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KALEVALA, THE LAND OF HEROES, VOL. 1 (CLASSIC REPRINT)



Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from Kalevala, the Land of Heroes, Vol. 1 The language they speak belongs to a group called Finnish-Ugrian, or Altaic, and is allied to Lappish and Esthonian, and more distantly to Turkish and Hungarian. There are only twenty-one letters in the alphabet; the letter J is pronounced like Y (as a consonant), and Y almost as a short I. The first syllable of every word is accented. This renders it difficult to accommodate such words as Kalevala to the metre; but I have tried to do my best. The Finlanders are very fond of old ballads, of which a great number have been collected, especially by Elias Lonnrot, to whom it occurred to arrange a selection into a connected poem, to which he gave the name of Kalevala. This he first published 1835 in two small volumes containing twenty-five Runos or Cantos, but afterwards rearranged and expanded it to fifty Runos, in which form it was published in 1849; and this was speedily translated into other languages. Perhaps the best translations are Schiefner's German version (1852) and Collan's Swedish version (1864). Several volumes of selections and abridgments have also appeared in America and England; and an English translation by John Martin Crawford (in two volumes) was published in New York and London in 1889. Schiefner used a flexible metre for his translation, which resembles the original as closely as the different character of Finnish and German would permit, a metre which had previously, though rarely, been used in English. His work attracted the attention of Longfellow, whose Song of Hiawatha is only a rather poor imitation of Schiefner's version of the Kalevala some of...



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