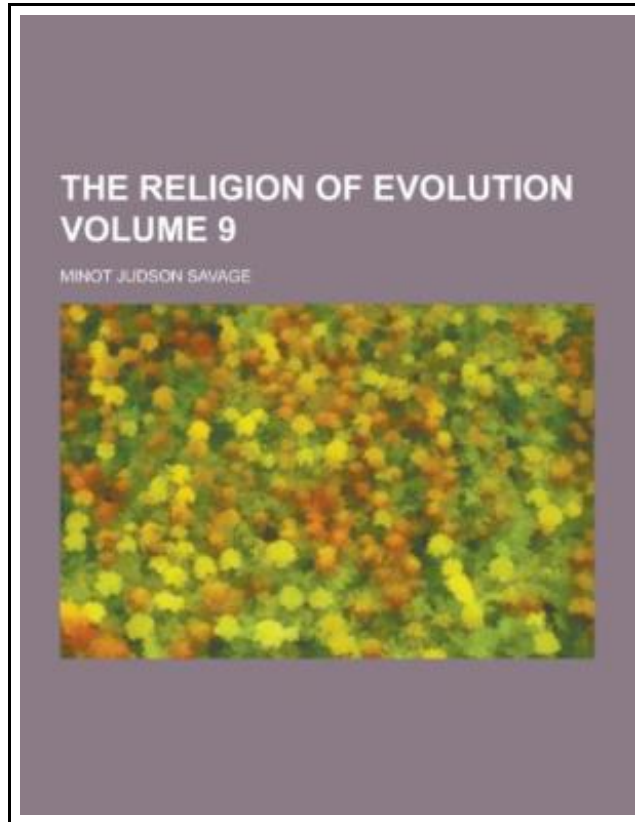


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Theclassics.Us, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1881 edition. Excerpt: . VIII. PRAYER. The place which prayer holds in the popular thought, the controversy in regard to it, and the consequent doubt and confusion, --: these make it a topic of the first importance both to the understanding and the heart. To glance at its origin and development, and then to study the popular beliefs in the light of modern knowledge, and so, if possible, to gain a position both rational and devout, --this is my present purpose. I have shown that the early objects of human worship were not persons to be loved. The gods of the childhood of the world were beings who filled the souls of men with dread. The first altars were built by fear; and the first prayers were deprecations, pleas, and entreaties intended to ward off impending ill. It was common among the early tribes to worship the spirit of their ancestor, who was supposed to watch over his descendants, and to hold their fortunes in his hand. This worship did not spring from any special love or veneration; but they believed that their tribal founder was jealous of his memory and honor, and that, if they did not keep alive his name and his worship, he had both the power and the disposition to do them incalculable harm. So their altars and their prayers were only a sort of tribute paid to keep their god in good humor, and thus to buy his favor and protection. And a...



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