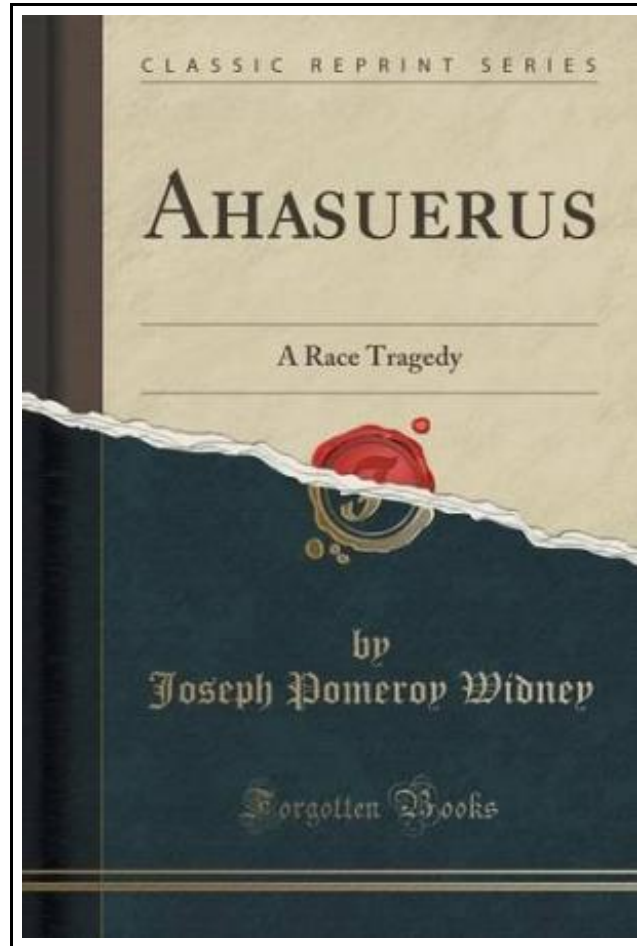


## Ahasuerus: A Race Tragedy (Classic Reprint)



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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 \*\*\*\*\*. Ahasuerus: A Race Tragedy is an epic poem loosely based on the Biblical Book of Esther. Its author, Joseph Pomeroy Widney was an educator, philanthropist, religious leader and doctor who championed the development of Los Angeles in the 19th Century. He was the second president of the University of Southern California and was one of the founders of the Church of the Nazarene. His politics and racial beliefs were controversial, and he was said to be the model for an oil baron in Upton Sinclair's novel *Oil!*, which was adapted for the movie *There Will Be Blood*. In *A Race Tragedy*, Widney tells the story of Ahasuerus, the Persian king of the Book of Esther who is widely regarded as Xerxes. Widney's fictionalized account depicts Ahasuerus as he wanders through the desert encountering some of the characters of the Bible. The style is that of the epic poem, and Widney uses symbolism from nature to tell the tale. One of the poem's themes is the reconciliation of Gentile and Jew. Widney had a transformative religious experience in the desert and returned forever changed, identifying himself with ancient Semites from which Judaism later sprang. Widney became something of a universalist, presaging in some way the theories of New Thought. However, readers may detect some anti-Semitism lurking within the poem. Despite Widney's contributions to Southern California culture, he was also known as an advocate of Eugenics and argued for Aryan superiority; His writings are still heavily quoted by white supremacists. *Ahasuerus: A Race Tragedy* is not a poem explicitly about Widney's racial politics. It will interest those who are familiar with Ahasuerus, Biblical...



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