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Henry van Dyke, author of "The Valley of Vision," was formerly United States Ambassador to the Netherlands, and during the war was made chaplain in the navy

## Half Told Tales

It is strange that so few Americans write allegories, for so many Americans like to read them. The popular appeal of a good allegory, provided it is sufficiently obvious, is very like the popular appeal of a good melodrama. Henry van Dyke's allegories are clear enough for anybody and usually very beautiful, tho the beauty is frequently

produced by a painfully obvious effort. *The Valley of Vision* is, according to its sub-title, "A Book of Romance and Some Half Told Tales" which are, its author says, "mere sketches, grave and gay, on the margin of the book of life." There are many of them and they are of many kinds. Most of them are stories of the war, but they are very far from being war stories in the usual sense. Even when the material scene is in France or Belgium the spiritual background is *The Valley of Vision*, because "the mountain-top is the place of outlook over the earth and sea. But it is in the valley of suffering, endurance and self-sacrifice that the deepest visions of the meaning of life come to us."

*The Valley of Vision*, by Henry van Dyke.  
Charles Scribner's Sons.