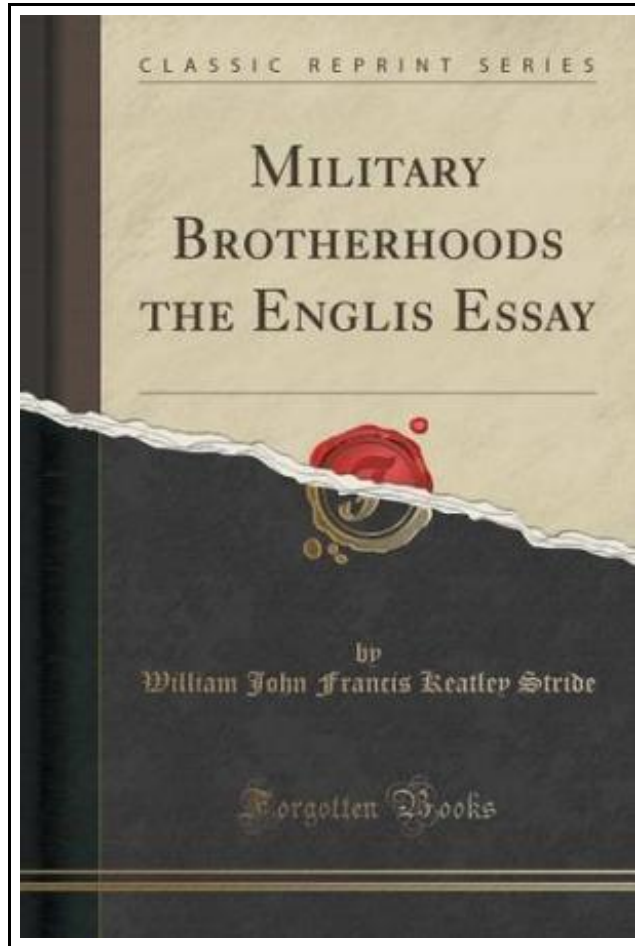


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from *Military Brotherhoods the Englis Essay* It is impossible, in considering those Military Brotherhoods which for centuries seemed to men the realization of the highest ideal of Christianity, not to reflect that they would have worn a strangely different aspect to the first disciples of the Christian faith. The fathers of the early Church indeed would probably have shrunk with horror from an association of ideas which would have seemed to them blasphemous and even a contradiction in terms. For the announcement of Peace on Earth and the universal Brotherhood of Men in Christ, which were the striking features of their creed, might well have seemed to them to be totally opposed to the idea of war, - and especially to the idea of a war of religion, such as that in which Military Brotherhoods had their origin. Yet the foresight of the Founder of their faith had been clearer than theirs. Universal fraternity was an ultimate ideal, to be realized only after universal strife; and the same lips which had seemed to prophesy the coming abolition of war in the declaration, All ye are brethren, had delivered the mournful warning that Christ had come not to send peace on earth but a sword. At the outset of this essay, therefore, a question has to be answered. By the twelfth century, when the first Military Brotherhood was founded, the highest type of Christian excellence outside the order of priesthood was no longer the meek martyr of the early Church nor the solitary hermit of a later age, but the warlike knight of the Crusades. What then were the influences which had so completely changed the ideals...



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