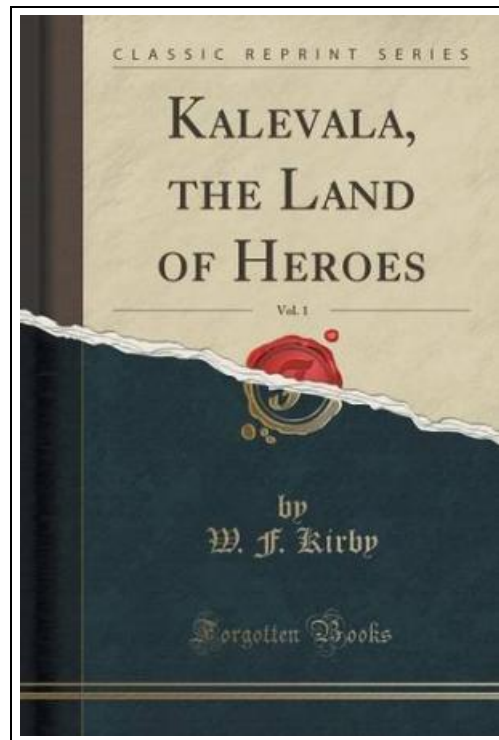


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Kalevala, the Land of Heroes, Vol. 1 The language they speak belongs to a group called Finnish-Ugrian, 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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