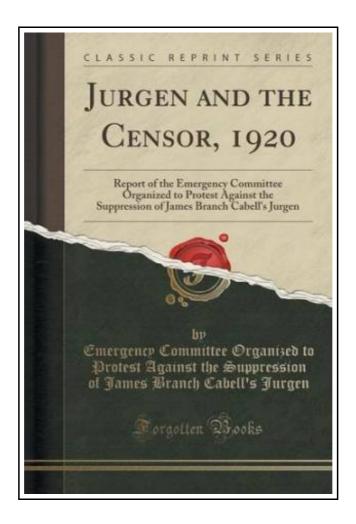
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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from Jurgen and the Censor, 1920: Report of the Emergency Committee Organized to Protest Against the Suppression of James Branch Cabell s Jurgen In reply to the questions you ask me, nothing could be more valueless than my personal opinion of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice and of its attitude toward Jurgen. Of a proceeding by which I have been robbed and vilified I cannot be expected to speak or think without bias. The part of wisdom, therefore, is silence. Yet - since a literary allusion is always more or less my foible as a prosperous and affected pseudo-litterateur - I would temper this taciturnity by referring you to the fragmentary Ms. of The Judging of Jurgen, which if it really dates from the fourteenth century, seems curiously prophetic. As to censorship of our reading-matter, I concede this may, in theory, be advisable. In practice, though, I can imagine no persons or class of persons qualified to perform this censorship. Pace the Vice Society, there is certainly a difference between pornography and fine literature, if but the difference that everybody enjoys the first where few care one way or the other about the second: and certainly the two should be appraised by diverse and appropriate standards. A work of art should therefore, in theory, be judged entirely as a work of art, by a jury of practitioners of the art concerned. Yet, since every self-respecting author at bottom abominates his competitors, despises his inferiors, and is frantically irritated by the work of those who differ from him in aesthetic canons, such an arrangement would, in practice, only fling open more conspicuous fields...

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