VENICE

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Venice by Daniel Pidgeon

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DANIEL PIDGEON

VENICE





VENICE, THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS

VENICE

BY

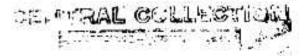
DANIEL PIDGEON F.G.S., Associast.C.E.

AUTHOR OF

"AN ENGINEER'S ROLIDAY; OR, NOTES OF A ROUND TRIP FROM LONG. O' TO O'," AND "OLD-WORLD QUESTIONS AND NEW-WORLD ANSWERS"

"I stood to Venice, on the Bridge of Sighs
A palace and a prison on each hand:
I saw from out the wave her structures rise
As from the stroke of the enchanter's wand:
A thousand years the reloady wings expand
Around me, and a dying giory smiles
O'er the far times, when many a subject land
Look'd to the winged Lion's mathle piles,
Where Venice sate in state, through on her hundred inless?"

BYROM. Child's Harold.



LONDON

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBWER, & CO. L™
PATERNOSTER HOUSE, CHARING CROSS BOAD

1895

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THE NEW YORK
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ASTOR, LENOX AND TELBEN FUUNDATIONS

1844 E

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PREFACE

IMPRESSIONS of Venice may be compared to a brilliant heap of her own many-coloured beads, which a child may play with, count, or string, according to mood or temperament.

The first course bespeaks a traveller wise enough to loaf contentedly, morning, noon, and night, on Lagoon or Canal, simply absorbing and enjoying Venice.

The second, one who, having posted all the items of Baedeker's day-book into his mental ledger, closes his account against the "City in the Sea" with a big balance of facts and figures on the profit side.

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The third, him who, with the kindly aid of Sismondi and Brown, Vasari and Burckhardt, strings some of his brighter beads of memory upon a few homespun threads, to form reminders of unique joys, tasted in "faëry lands forlorn."

Such toys can please others only upon condition that they do not burden the loafer; distract the precisian; or try to teach the unclassed tourist what he ought to think and feel about Venice.

THE LONG HOUSE,

LEATHERHEAD, SUREEY,

Outober 1895.

CONTENTS

CHAP					PAGE
I.	THE GRAND CANAL	•	8	•	1
II.	ST. MARK'S CHURCH-	-THE	PLAZZ	ŠA .	31
m.	THE LAGOON, TORCEL	LO, I	URAN	ο.	47
IV.	THE DUCAL PALACE		98	*	69
V.	VENETIAN ART .	14	•	-	91
VI.	THE CONDOTTIERI		•	٠	118
VII.	VENETIAN COMMERCE	8	12	(5)	130

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VENICE

CHAPTER I

THE GRAND CANAL

"So, o'er the lagune We glided; and from that funereal bank I leaned, and saw the city, and could mark How, from their many isles, in evening's gleam, Its temples and its palaces did seem Like fabrics of enchantment piled to beaven."

2

-SHELLEY.

To step, on arriving at Venice, into a gondola, instead of the omnibus which usually conveys the tired traveller in Italy over a mile or more of stony streets to his hotel, is like falling asleep after pain; and if the train arrives, as ours did, late at night, so much the better.