

**VENICE**

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Venice by Daniel Pidgeon

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**DANIEL PIDGEON**

# **VENICE**





F. JENNINGS DEL. J. BOGGS SCULPT.

VENICE. THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS.

— THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS.

# VENICE

BY

DANIEL PIDGEON

F.G.S., ASSOC. INST. C.E.

AUTHOR OF

"AN ENGINEER'S HOLIDAY; OR, NOTES OF A ROUND TRIP  
FROM LONG 0° TO 0°," AND "OLD-WORLD QUESTIONS  
AND NEW-WORLD ANSWERS"

"I stood in 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 r' cloudy wings expand  
Around me, and a dy'ng glory smiles  
O'er the far times, when many a subject land  
Look'd to the winged Lion's marble piles,  
Where Venice sat in state, throned on her hundred isles!"

BYRON. *Child Harold.*

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## P R E F A C E

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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BRITISH MUSEUM



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, SURREY,  
October 1895.

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# V E N I C E

## CHAPTER I

### THE GRAND CANAL

“So, o'er the lagoon  
We glided; and from that funereal bark  
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 heaven.”

—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.