ESSAYS AND VERSES: A SOUVENIR

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649525133

Essays and Verses: A Souvenir by John Harrington Edwards

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN HARRINGTON EDWARDS

ESSAYS AND VERSES: A SOUVENIR

Trieste

ESSAYS AND VERSES

A SOUVENIR

BY

JOHN HARRINGTON EDWARDS

AUTHOR OF "GOD AND MUSIC," ETC.

Respice non tam donum amantis quam amorem dantis

1912

TO FRIENDS

This little volume contains a selection from papers written in later life, after a serious break in health which has ever since greatly limited working ability; but they may be of some interest or use to friends of the writer. Any reader who finds anything of value in these pages will forthwith be ranked as a friend. Several of the papers have appeared in Reviews. The verses were mostly pencilled to relieve the tedium of sanatorium life, yet have found place in estimable periodicals, and have met with requests for their reproduction in accessible form. The term "Essays" in the title is not to be taken too strictly.

If the book deserved a formal dedication, it would be heartily inscribed to the one who has made the afternoon of life everything a happy home could assure.

Brooklyn—New York,

CONTENTS

FERDINAND COLUMBUS AND HIS LIBRARY

The Columbian quadri-centennial in Chicago failed to confer honor where honor is due, inasmuch as the glory of the great discoverer wholly eclipsed that of his two great sons. Diego and Ferdinand Columbus were worthy scions of distinguished stock. Diego possessed administrative ability of high order. Ferdinand developed fine intellectual qualities which were well applied in various spheres. On the sea he was a true Columbus. On land he had a more successful career than his father. A trained courtier, he preserved his manhood in a day when the supple knee and a pliant conscience were easy means of advancement. As litterateur he possessed versatile gifts. Historian, bibliographer, cosmographer, jurist, poet and educator, he deserves a permanent place in the record of sixteenth century literary life.

Like his renowned father, Ferdinand was a man of proleptic mind. He had ideas and pursued ends to be fully realized only in our own time. Had his far-seeing initiative been responded to by the ruling powers in state and church, Spain would not have sunk so low as she afterwards did in the scale of enlightened civilization.

The mother of Ferdinand deserved to be the wife of the discoverer of America; but the sacrament of holy matrimony has been administered to the errant pair by the ultramontanes, bent on making Columbus a saint, about four centuries too late. The customs of the time, observed by clergy and laity alike, may palliate a mis-