

**THE GOLDEN
AGE: A SATIRE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649536177

The Golden Age: A Satire by Alfred Austin

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ALFRED AUSTIN

**THE GOLDEN
AGE: A SATIRE**

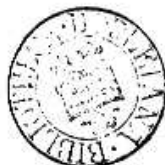
THE GOLDEN AGE:

A Satire.

BY

ALFRED AUSTIN,

AUTHOR OF 'THE SEASON, A SATIRE'; 'THE HUMAN TRAGEDY';
'A VINDICATION OF LORD BYRON,' ETC.



LONDON:
CHAPMAN AND HALL, 193 PICCADILLY.

1871.

[All rights reserved.]

280. j. 271.

PREFACE.

A WRITER has so few fitting opportunities of addressing his readers on the subject of his own compositions, that the author of *The Golden Age* trusts he will be pardoned for seizing this occasion to make the following brief observations. Though partly retrospective, they would not have been expressed at all but for their bearing on his future designs.

It is just ten years since he published *The Season*; and he has no reason to complain of the reception accorded to it both then and since, especially when he reflects that its literary method and its ethical aim are diametrically opposed to the form and purpose of those poetical compositions for which the taste of our day has shown so decided a partiality. But, about a twelvemonth after the first appearance of *The Season*, he ventured to submit to the public a longer and more ambitious work, entitled *The Human Tragedy*.

Its fate is accurately described by a foreign critic: *
'*Ce roman-poème fut simplement voué au néant, et regardé comme non avénu.*' After explaining what, in his opinion, was the cause of this indifference, he is good enough to add: '*Une indifférence imméritée, hâtons-nous de la déclarer, attendu que l'œuvre nouvelle était de beaucoup supérieure au poème dont on avait fait si grand bruit.*'

It is because this opinion is likewise the opinion of the author himself, and is strongly confirmed by the privately expressed testimony of persons on whose judgment and candour he can best rely, that he proposes to persist in a scheme he has long entertained, of giving to *The Human Tragedy* that fourfold aspect and development—the Religious, the Romantic, the Ethical, and the Humanitarian—which it seems to him, unhappily, but too capable of assuming. He can only say that he has sought to arrive at no such conclusion, still less to be its mouthpiece and interpreter. They have both forced themselves upon him,

* 'Un Romancier Satirique Anglais:' *Revue des Deux Mondes*, 15 Septembre 1865. If the author is obliged to borrow the language of a foreign critic, it is because his works have never had the honour of being criticised in his native tongue.

and he appears to have no option. In obedience to this new task, *The Human Tragedy*, as it originally stood, and which treated only of what is strangely called the softer passion, has been withdrawn from circulation.

As for the following Satire, it has occupied the author's mind for several years, and his pen for several months. But for the absorbing duel between France and Germany, of which he was throughout a close spectator, it would have been published last autumn. He long resisted writing it; but now that it is written and is being given to the world, he must add that it expresses his most profound if melancholy convictions.

March 16th, 1871.



THE GOLDEN AGE.