

**THE BRIDE AND THE
BRIDEGROOM, SONNETS
AND OTHER VERSE
FOR THE CHURCH'S YEAR**

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The Bride and the Bridegroom, Sonnets and Other Verse for the Church's Year by J. Cowden-Cole

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THE
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BRING

SONNETS AND OTHER VERSE

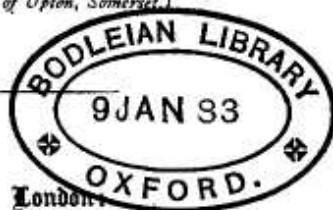
FOR THE

CHURCH'S YEAR.

BY

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(Vicar of Upton, Somerset.)



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Thou art her only spouse,
Whose arm supports her, on whose faithful breast
Her persecuted head she meekly bows,
Sure pledge of her eternal rest.

Keble.

PREFACE.

A WORD of explanation is due with regard to the apparent liberty which has been taken in this little volume as to the arrangement of the immoveable Feast-Days.

The object in view has been the better to connect these Holy-Days of the Prayer Book with the special teaching of the Sunday to which they may fall near. This must, of course, in a single instance, be but tentative; and would necessarily vary from year to year, as the moveable Feasts themselves changed. The Author believes, however, that more deference would be paid to the Saints' Days, by ordinary Church-going people, if thus the Sunday to which they may fall near was not suffered to pass without an endeavour being made to interweave the teaching of the Saint's Day with that of the Sunday Festival.

Much has been done of late years to popularize the Prayer Book, and to bring it easily within the comprehension of all. No one, however, would venture to assert that all had been accomplished in this direction, which it was possible to do. The Book of Common Prayer is still to many a sealed book; and its beauties and excellencies are often passed over, through want perhaps of a friendly hand to point them out.

If in any way this little volume of verse will help the busy workers and toilers in the world to take a greater interest in the Church's Common Service Book, it will have achieved (under God) the purpose for which it has been sent forth upon what in our day are the troubled waters of Church opinion.

JUNE 1st, 1882.

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