

**LA BEATA, IN TWO  
VOLUMES, VOL. II**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649188215

La Beata, in two volumes, Vol. II by T. Adolphus Trollope

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**T. ADOLPHUS TROLLOPE**

**LA BEATA, IN TWO  
VOLUMES, VOL. II**



# L A B E A T A.

BY  
T. ADOLPHUS TROLLOPE,

AUTHOR OF  
"A DECADE OF ITALIAN WOMEN," "THE GIRLHOOD OF CATHERINE  
DE MEDICI," "PAUL THE POPE AND PAUL THE KING,"  
ETC., ETC.,

*IN TWO VOLUMES.*

VOL. II.

LONDON:  
CHAPMAN AND HALL, 153 PICCADILLY.  
1861.

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# LA BEATA.

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## CHAPTER XI.

### NEW YEAR'S DAY IN THE VIA DEL CORSO.

THE year in which the events that have been narrated took place was a marked one in Florence—marked by a great calamity, the immediate results of which were felt for several years, and the recollection of which, notwithstanding all the world-famous changes and revolutions which have since that time stirred up from its foundations all the social system of the country, is yet fresh in the minds of the Florentines. It was the year of the great flood—of the last of the great

floods that have befallen Florence, that is to say, for there have been many such in the course of its history.

It is curious that Florence, in the middle of the nineteenth century, should suffer from the overbearing injustice and wrong done by Imperial Rome to the obscure provincial municipium on the banks of the Arno some two thousand years ago. But such is, in fact, the case. In the singularly situated low-lying valley of the Chiana, a basin receiving the drainage of a large tract of country between the Arno and the Tiber, there is a watershed of such trifling elevation that it was easy, by an artificial modification of it, to direct the waters from the latter and towards the former of these rivers. Now the Romans, as we remember, had seen "yellow Tiber, with its waters furiously dashed from the Tuscan bank, rushing to overthrow the monuments of the king, and the temple of Vesta." And in their anxiety to avoid a

repetition of such sights, little caring what monuments and temples might be thrown down in distant subject provinces, they constructed earthworks, which throw the waters of the Chiana entirely into the already overcharged Arno. The result was very soon seen in disastrous floods in all the lower Valdarno; and records exist from a very early period of petitions and remonstrances from the inhabitants to the masters of the world on the subject. But mortal masters of worlds are little apt to listen to such complaints from subject peoples, and the valley of the Arno and its city have been liable to destructive floods from that time to this.\*

The autumn had been remarkably fine in the year alluded to, and very little rain had fallen. The "city of flowers" was, at the beginning of November, full to overflowing

\* After the flood referred to in the text, works were executed, which, it is hoped, will prevent the recurrence of similar disasters.