VIRGINIBUS PUERISQUE, AND OTHER PAPERS

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Virginibus Puerisque, and other papers by Robert Louis Stevenson

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ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

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Trieste

VIRGINIBUS PUERISQUE

AND OTHER PAPERS

BY THE SAME AUTHOR. AN INLAND VOYAGE. EDINBURGH : PICTURESQUE NOTES, TRAVELS WITH A DONKEY," FAMILIAR STUDIES OF MEN AND BOOKS. NEW ARABIAN NIGHTS. TREASURE (SLAND. THE SILVERADO SQUATTERS. A CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES. STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HVDE. PRINCE OITO. KIDNAPPED. THE MERRY MEN. UNDERWOODS : POEMS. MEMORIES AND PORTRAITS. (D'ER Mers Stevenson) MORE NEW ARABIAN NIGHTS: THE DVNAMITER.

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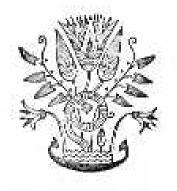
VIRGINIBUS PUERISQUE

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AND OTHER PAPERS

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ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



SECOND EDITION

LONDON

CHATTO AND WINDUS, PICCADILLY

1887

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MY DEAR WILLIAM ERNEST HENLEY,

We are all besy in this world building Towers of Babel; and the child of our imaginations is always a changeling when it comes from nurse. This is not only true in the greatest, as of wars and folios, but in the least also, like the triffing volume in your hand. Thus I began to write these papers with a definite end : I was to be the Advocatus, not I hope Diabeli, but Juneniulis; I was to state temperately. the heliefs of you's as opposed to the contentions of age : to go over all the field where the two differ, and produce at last a little volume of special pleadings. which I might call, without misnomer, Life at Traumtyfive. But times kept changing, and I shared in the change. I chang hard to that entrancing age; but, with the best will, no man can be twenty-five for ever. The old, raddy convirtions deserted me, and, along with them, the style that fits their presentation and defence. I saw, and indeed my friends informed me, that the game was up. A good part of the volume would answer to the long-projected title; but the shadows of the prison-house are on the test.

-376

Dedication

It is good to have been young in youth and, as years go on, to grow older. Many are already old before they are through their teens; but to travel deliberately through one's eges is to get the heart out of a liberal education. Times change, opinions vary to their opposite, and still this world appears a brave gymnasium, full of sea-baching, and horse exercise, and bracing, manly virtues; and what can be more encouraging than to find the friend who was welcome at one age, still welcome at another? Our affections and beliefs are wiser than we : the best that is in us is better than we can understand; for it is grounded heyoard experience, and guides us, blindfold but safe, from one age on to spother.

These papers are like milestones on the wayside of my life ; and as I look back in memory, there is hardly a stage of that distance but I see you present with advice, represel, or praise. Meanwhile, many things have changed, you and I among the rest ; but I hope that our sympathy, femaded on the love of our art, and nourished by mutual assistance, shall survive these little revolutions undiminished, and, with God's help, units us to the cod.

R. L. S.

DAVOS PLATZ, 1881.

CONTENTS

"VIRGINIEUS PUERISQUE					PAGE
$d_{i1}=i2=i2=i2$; 23	ΨĒ	88	50	$\{ \mathbf{I} \}$
н, с. с. с.	78	38	-33	- 20	25
III. ON FALLING IN	: Lov	Щ.,	52	t)	44
IV. TRUTH OF INC.	38001	RSE	ž1(39	63
CRABBED AGE AND YOUT	гн	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	\tilde{t}	81
AN APOLOGY TOR IDLERS	$\widetilde{\Omega}^{1}_{i}$	$\tilde{c}^{(1)}$	$\left\{ \hat{e}_{i} \right\}$	κî.	107
ORDERED SOUTH .	ΪĒ	23	(2)	25	128
Æs TRIPLEX	2	- ()}	7/1	70	153
EL DORADO	55	-	tę.	- 55	172
THE ENGLISH ADMORALS		16	81	53	179
Some Portraits by RAS	BCRS	÷ #:	ŝ	(i)	205
CHILD'S PLAY , ,	ί.		63	$\overline{40}$	222
WALKING TOURS	177	125			245
Pan's Pipes , ,	- 6		÷.		262
A PLEA FOR GAS LAMPS	- 53	12		s	271