

DANTE AND VIRGIL

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Dante and Virgil by H. M. Beatty

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H. M. BEATTY

**DANTE
AND VIRGIL**

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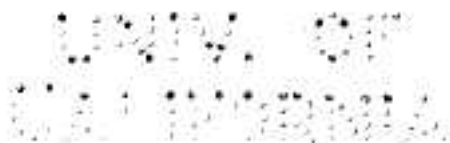
Dante and Virgil.

BY

H. M. BEATTY, M.A., LL.D. (Dub.)

Member of Council of the Dante Society

*Dante, perchè Virgilio se ne vada,
Non pianger anco, non pianger ancora.*



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AVE ATQUE VALE

My dear Booklet,

A word before we part.

When I was young, like you, I knew a book called "A Thousand and One Gems of English Poetry". I never counted him. But I esteemed him: not, indeed, so much for his skill at figures (though that was remarkable), as for his open-handed generosity. To his generous thousand he added, out of his melting charity, one more; as though he were a mere baker lengthening his dozen, or a Don Giovanni, adding a careless trifle of ladies to his visiting list: "mille e tre".

Let, then, the "Thousand and One" be your great exemplar, my dear Booklet. For you are now called to walk in his footsteps.

When Mr. Willard Fiske was collecting his great Dante Library, which he has presented to Cornell University, he found 7000 Dante books. There are now 7001. Go forth, Seven Thousand and One, and prosper!

Go to Mr. Willard Fiske. Perchance he will enrol you in that ragged regiment, seven thousand strong: in that vast and heterogeneous corps, world-dispersed and world-forgotten, tramping for twenty generations through realms of Dante, sapping and mining, surveying and mapping its heights and depths.

Go to the Keeper of Printed Books in the British Museum. He will receive you:—by Act of Parliament.

224843

Other friends you may find. Ah! if only Dante and Virgil were in the running for the Derby, what friends you might have! A word to the literary referee at Epsom might be effective! Or, if the manager of the London Hippodrome could see his way to produce the Divine Comedy, what friends you might make! What friends!

Whether such glory waits you, you can at any rate deserve esteem by walking in the magnanimous footsteps of the "Thousand and One". Should the poor reviewer, d'erwatched and all distraught, plodding his weary way through unending piles of irrelevant literature, make pipe-lights of your pages, deny him not. His need for the leaves may be greater than thine. Whether you seek a refuge from the madding crowd's ignoble strife in the elegant but unremunerative half-pay of the "Remainder" shelf, or in the cool sequestered vale of the "Twopenny Box", bear yourself worthily; and remember that no one, not even the Keeper of Printed Books, will love you like

Your ever affectionate

Father.

PREFACE

The mediæval Virgil has attracted a good deal of attention; the Virgil of the Divine Comedy very little. The aim of this essay is to compare and contrast the Dantean with, firstly, the real, and, secondly, the mediæval, Virgil; to define the points of contact and repulsion between the three; and, finally, to estimate the influence of Virgil on Dante.

A list of the principal books consulted has been placed at the end of the book; but my pervasive indebtedness to Comparetti's *Virgilio nel Medio Evo* should be specially acknowledged.

For kindly encouragement and advice