

THE SECRET BOOK

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649144389

The secret book by Edmund Lester Pearson

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

EDMUND LESTER PEARSON

**THE
SECRET BOOK**



THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
NEW YORK • BOSTON • CHICAGO • DALLAS
ATLANTA • SAN FRANCISCO

MACMILLAN & CO., LIMITED
LONDON • BOMBAY • CALCUTTA
MELBOURNE

THE MACMILLAN CO. OF CANADA, LTD.
TORONTO

34641

The
SECRET BOOK



BY
EDMUND LESTER PEARSON
AUTHOR OF "THE VOYAGE OF THE HOPPERGRASS";
"THE OLD LIBRARIAN'S ALMANACK"; ETC.



New York
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1914

All rights reserved



COPYRIGHT, 1914.

By THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

Set up and electrotyped. Published April, 1914.

2
682
.5
P
45

To

JOHN COTTON DANA, ESQ.

Sir:—

To you, a lover of books, not only for their contents, but for their dress and appearance, I would like to bring one written, printed, and even bound by my own hands. I had best stick, however, to the only one of those arts which I know.

Here is the book, then,—I will not say “such as it is,” nor “an ill-favoured thing, but mine own,” nor use any of those phrases of mock-modesty. It gave me pleasure to write, and, I hope, will give you pleasure to read.

*Moreover, it is to remind you not only of gratitude felt for a word of encouragement spoken at the right moment, but also of those lucky days when I chanced upon *The Old Librarian's Almanack*, that secret book of Jared Bean, which you and your Brothers so ingeniously set forth in type. How some, of severe and acid turn of mind, preached unto us upon the state of our morals! And how many others, of generous temper, rejoiced and made merry with us! Will you ever forget?*

I am, Sir,

Your Good Friend, and

Oblig'd, Humble Servant

EDMUND LESTER PEARSON

NEWBURYPORT

February 11, 1914.



CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE SECRET BOOK.....	1
II. RYERSON'S ADVENTURES.....	22
III. DICKENS'S SECRET BOOK.....	44
IV. ON PIRATES.....	70
V. A NUMBER OF THINGS.....	97
VI. FORGOTTEN BOOKS.....	120
VII. LAURISTON.....	144
VIII. "BOOK-LEARNING".....	150
IX. ? ? ?.....	170
X. IMMORAL BOOKS.....	189
XI. HOW TO WRITE A "BEST-SELLER"	208
XII. OUT OF THE FOG.....	243
INDEX.....	251

NOTE

A large part of this book has been contributed, in different form, to the Boston Evening Transcript. Some of it is printed now for the first time.

E. L. P.