

A BOOK OF ANNIVERSARIES

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A Book of Anniversaries by P. Askeff Benton

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P. ASKELL BENTON

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COMPILED BY

P. ASKELL BENTON

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NOTE

THE translation of *Catullus* under date of July 21 is published by the very kind permission of the Rev. G. S. Davies, Master of the Charterhouse, and the poem under September 4 by that of Mr. John Oxenham from his volume of poetry entitled *Bees in Amber*. Sir Herbert Stephen has given permission for the use of J. K. Stephen's sonnet (April 7), Messrs. Macmillan for George Wyndham's *À Cassandre*, and Mr. John Murray for W. E. Gladstone's translation of *Persicos odi* (May 19).

Some of the Scripture quotations have been taken from an admirable little book called *A Calendar of Scripture Quotations*, published anonymously, by Messrs. Horace Marshall & Son in 1896.

The verses under January 21 and May 10 are taken from poems which are printed in full in a collection entitled *Songs of the South*.

Permission to publish the poems under date of August 28 from *The Lazy Minstrel*, by the late Mr. Ashby-Sterry, has kindly been given by his representative, Mr. A. Shillitoe, and by the publishers, Messrs. T. Fisher Unwin.

*The Compiler's share of the proceeds of the sale
of this book will be given to the London Committee
of the French Red Cross.*

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January 1

Union of Great Britain and Ireland, 1801.

Arthur Hugh Clough, b. 1819.

Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India, 1877.

Northern Nigeria proclaimed a Protectorate, 1900.

Say not, the struggle naught availeth,
The labour and the wounds are vain,
The enemy faints not, nor faileth,
And as things have been they remain.

If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars;
It may be, in yon smoke concealed,
Your comrades chase e'en now the fliers,
And, but for you, possess the field.

For while the tired waves, vainly breaking,
Seem here no painful inch to gain,
Far back through creeks and inlets making,
Comes silent, flooding in, the main.

And not by eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light,
In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, look, the land is bright.

A. H. CLOUGH.

January 2

Publius Ovidius Naso, d. A. D. 17.

Titus Livius, d. A. D. 17.

Ille [Hasdrubal] pugnantes hortando pariterque obeundo pericula sustinuit; ille fessos abnuentesque taedio et labore nunc precando, nunc castigando accendit; ille fugientes revocavit omissamque pugnam aliquot locis restituit; postremo, quum haud dubie fortuna hostium esset, ne superstes tanto exercitui suum nomen secuto esset, concitato equo se in cohortem Romanam immisit; ibi, ut patre Hamilcare et Hannibale fratre dignum erat, pugnans cecidit.

LIVY, xxvii. 49.

January 3

St. Geneviève, patron saint of Paris.

Lutetia, the ancient Paris, or Lutetia Parisiorum, as it was called by the Romans, stood in the midst of marshes. The name, derived, suggestively enough, from *lutum*, the Latin for mud, has been invested with a peculiar significance by those stern moralists who see in Paris nothing but a sink of iniquity. . . .

The Emperor Julian, known as the 'Apostate', . . . retired to Lutetia for winter quarters and spoke of it ever afterwards as his 'dear Lutetia'.

'Lutetia laetitia!'—Paris is my joy! he might, with a certain modern writer, have exclaimed.

Old and New Paris, vol. i, p. 6, by H. S. EDWARDS.

January 4

Roger Ascham, d. 1568.

To ride comely : to run fair at the tilt or ring : to play at all weapons : to shoot fair in bow, or surely in gun : to vault lustily : to run : to leap : to wrestle : to swim : to dance comely : to sing and play of instruments cunningly : to hawk : to hunt : to play at tennis and all pastimes generally, which be joined with labour, used in open place, and in the daylight, containing either some fine exercise for war or some pleasant pastime for peace, be not only comely and decent, but also very necessary for a courtly gentleman to use.

The Scholemaster, by ASCHAM.

The Persians taught their children three things : to ride, to shoot, and to speak the truth.

January 5

Alexander Smith, d. 1867.

The bridegroom sea
Is toying with the shore his wedded bride,
And, in the fullness of his marriage joy,
He decorates her tawny brow with shells,
Retires a space to see how fair she looks,
Then, proud, runs up to kiss her.

A Life Drama, Scene vii, by ALEXANDER SMITH.

January 6

Epiphany.