

**THE ROSE-BUD: A
CHRISTIAN GIFT TO
THE YOUNG**

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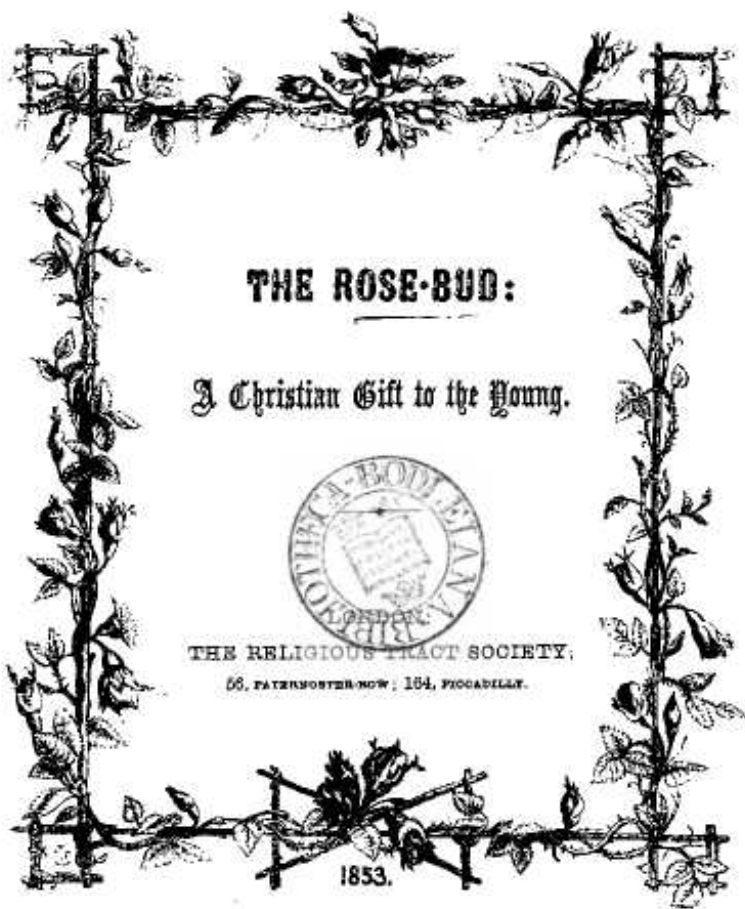
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THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY

**THE ROSE-BUD: A
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THE YOUNG**



EAST FRONT OF WINDSOR CASTLE



THE ROSE-BUD:

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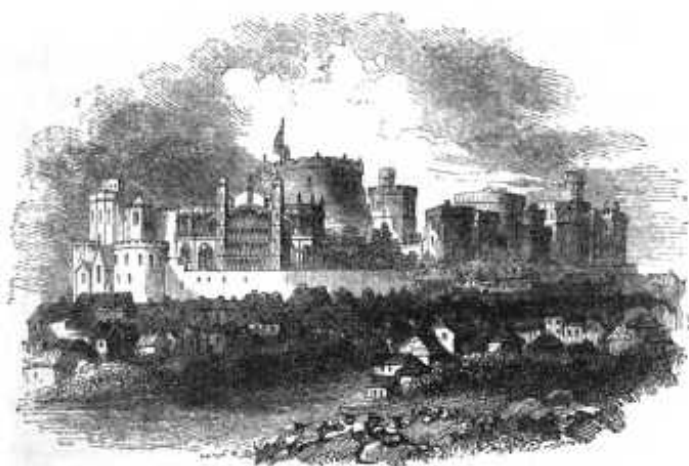
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The Rose-Bud.



THE ROYAL CASTLE.

IN former times Windsor Castle was reckoned half a day's journey from London: it may now be reached in a railway train in less than an hour. This convenience of approach has made it the resort of thousands, who wish to

spend a holiday in a visit to this oldest and most interesting of the palaces of England's queen. And now, on bright summer mornings, happy groups of young and old are seen on their way thither, to behold its many curious objects, to enjoy a walk on its noble terraces, and quietly to stroll through its richly wooded parks.

The castle is of much interest to the student of history. It has been the birthplace, the domestic home, and the tomb of kings. Some have here kept their court, and others have here found a prison. In its turn it has been a fortress, where they have stoutly resisted the attack of their foes, and a banqueting house, in which they have royally entertained their friends. So far back as the days of the early Saxons, warlike kings built a strongly fortified palace on this spot, and called it Wyndleshora, from the winding banks of the river Thames, which passed near its walls. Edward the Confessor lived here, and received his barons and warriors after the rude fashion of the times. William the Conqueror, charmed by the beauty of the place, erected a new castle for his abode. The first Henry added to its towers and walls, until it became the strongest fortress of the land, next to the Tower of London. After Richard the First came to the throne, Windsor Castle was twice besieged and taken, and the blood of knights and warriors was plenteously shed within and without its walls. Edward the Third, who was born

here, engaged William of Wykeham, a celebrated architect, to add to its buildings, to such an extent, as nearly to rebuild the castle, and rewarded his services with one shilling per day, while five hundred workmen, who were under his orders, were paid at the rate of one penny. Such was the difference in the value of money in that age compared with the present. In the time of queen Elizabeth and James the First it was the scene of pageants, feasts, and tilting matches, in which lords and ladies mingled gaily, decked in gold, jewels, velvet, and lace. Many strange sights, indeed, were witnessed here, till, at length, it became the peaceful home of George the Third, who lived at Windsor almost like a private gentleman, and from his love of rural employments obtained the name of "Farmer George," a name more honourable than that obtained by all the warrior kings who have worn the British crown.

Windsor Castle is built on rising ground in one of the most lovely spots in the British islands. From the top of one of its towers, it is said, the spectator may look into eleven counties. On one side forests and parks, and on the other, towns, villages, and cultivated fields, spread out to the view. The Home Park, the Great Park, and the Long Walk, three miles in extent, with a colossal statue of George the Third in the distance, claim the admiration of every spectator: all is grand, bright, and beautiful.