

ANNALS OF THE POOR

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Annals of the Poor by Legh Richmond & James S. Stallybrass

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LEGH RICHMOND & JAMES S. STALLYBRASS

**ANNALS OF
THE POOR**

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DAIRYMAN'S COTTAGE.

ANNALS OF THE POOR

BY THE

REV. LEGH RICHMOND, M.A.

EDITED WITH A MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR

BY

JAMES S. STALLYBRASS.

Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,
Their homely joys, and destiny obscure ;
Nor Grandeur hear, with a disdainful smile,
The short and simple annals of the poor.—GRAY.

Revised Illustrated Edition.

LONDON :

SWAN SONNENSCHN, LEBAS & LOWREY,
PATERNOSTER SQUARE.

1886.

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18497.19.6

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EVERT JANSEN WENDELL
1918

PREFACE TO THIS EDITION.

THE *Annals of the Poor* is not yet an obsolete book. Its dress may be a little antiquated, but a warm life throbs in it still. The scenes and characters it so lovingly, sympathizingly portrays, we feel to be a genuine bit of human life. This comes of writing from the heart, not from the head only, still less from other people's heads. How much loud logic and stormful debating of that period has fallen absolutely silent to us; while this small voice, like a perennial fountain leaping straight from the heart of nature, murmurs on, and its music falls pleasant on the ear!

Legh Richmond was one of the most popular exponents of the Evangelical movement that stirred the Church of England at the beginning

of the century. But he was more than that : he was a born poet (though he wrote little verse), with an eye for beauty, with a truly Christ-like fellow-feeling for man as man ; that quick and catching sympathy, which in its power to sway mankind often goes as far as genius. It is enough to say, that he wrote a book which millions have read, which many thousands have wept over and been strengthened by.

It was he that first made Englishmen acquainted with the Isle of Wight. It is not too much to say that his vivid descriptions of its scenery, and the poetry and pathos he threw round the lives of its lowly cottagers, drew thousands every year to visit its shores, and doubtless many to settle there ; and to this day the stream of pilgrims to the tombs of the Dairyman's Daughter and the Young Cottager is not exhausted.

To me from infancy the name of Legh Richmond was a household word. I first read

the two stories that constitute this volume in the Russian language, and in the heart of Siberia, where they had a pretty wide circulation some forty or fifty years since. It is therefore from no lack of reverence or affection for his memory that, when asked to edit them afresh, I thought it wise to curtail both some of the Author's own reflections, and some needless repetitions of sentiment and doctrine occurring in the letters and conversations. We have gone on since eighty years ago: sentiments then novel and striking are now staled by frequent use, and fall flat on a generation somewhat deaf to sermonizing. But to the cutting-down process I have set strict limits: not a line of local description, not the smallest detail of the narrative, nor anything characteristic of the personages, has been omitted; and not a word has been added.