

**CANTOS FROM THE  
DIVINA COMMEDIA OF  
DANTE, TRANSLATED  
INTO ENGLISH VERSE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649528523

Cantos from the Divina Commedia of Dante, Translated into English Verse by Dante Alighieri  
& C. Potter

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Cover @ 2017

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**DANTE ALIGHIERI & C. POTTER**

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*CANTOS*

FROM THE

DIVINA COMMEDIA

OF

DANTE

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(17) CANTOS

FROM THE

DIVINA COMMEDIA

OF

DANTE

*TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE*

BY

C. POTTER

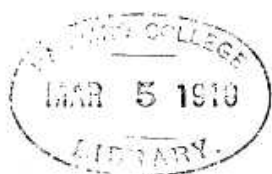
LONDON

DIGBY, LONG AND CO., PUBLISHERS

18 BOUVERIE STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.

1896

*Dn 50.6.3*



*Gift of  
The Dante Society*

# *Dante in Exile.*



## PARADISO.

### CANTO XXV.

**I**F it should happen that my sacred song,  
Wherewith my hands have grasped the earth and  
heaven,  
And kept me lean, should conquer cruel wrong,  
That found me, sleeping lamb, from a fair sheepfold driven.

The enemy of wolves in that revolt ;  
With other voice, and in another guise,  
I will return a poet ; at that font  
Baptismal, only will I take my cap as prize.

'Not else, but in the Faith which shows to man  
The mind of God, an entrance give me now ;  
When holy Peter will my merits scan,  
And place the laurel wreath upon my aching brow.



# INFERNO.

## CANTO I.

### *THE ARGUMENT.*

The Poet having unwittingly entered a wood, and having lost the track, is exposed to great peril.

He reaches the open plain and dark valley below, where he meets the Shade of Virgil, who offers to guide him by other ways out of his difficulty.

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*Dante.*

—  
INFERNO.

CANTO I.

I WAS a Pilgrim that had turned, astray  
    Within a trackless wood ;  
And in the middle of Life's journeying way  
    In shrouded darkness stood.

Why speak I now of that supremest hour,  
    Of savage vastness, and of dire dismay,  
That with the bitterness of death recalls  
    Its ghastly, vanished power :

But to rehearse the good I since have tasted,  
And tell of things committed to my care ;  
Since foolishness my soul had once belated,  
That punishment did not prevent my blessing's share.

A few more steps, and fatal as to all,  
The chasm lay beneath me, dark and wide ;  
The place my heart's fear should the most enthrall,  
Because the Light of Heaven had ceased to be my Guide.

Yet scarcely had I reached the vale below,  
When early morning touched the shouldered hill,  
And in its light the Star of Love aglow,  
Shone with her Beacon fire, a Guide and Guardian still.

Then after needful rest with strength supplied,  
I slowly, cautiously, my steps retrace ;  
And looked around me, at the chasm wide,  
As rescued mariner, the baffled surge might gaze.

When lo ! some forest beast \* ; a spotted pard,  
With nimble feet entangled where I stept,  
Nor forward scarcely let me go one yard ;  
And more than once my thoughts repent the place I left.

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\* "Among the beasts of the Deoghur jungles an occasional *chetah* was to be found. In Oudh and other parts of India this animal is domesticated and kept by sporting Rajahs for the purpose of running down antelope ; in the Deoghur country they keep themselves by running down the goats and sheep of the people. A curious animal is this hunting chetah, a cat (*i.e.*, a small and much attenuated leopard) down to its feet, and at their extremities a dog."—From *Blackwood's Magazine*, article by Edward Braddon, Nov. 1893.