

**SILVER STORE:
COLLECTED FROM
MEDIAEVAL CHRISTIAN
AND JEWISH MINES**

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Silver store: collected from mediaeval Christian and Jewish mines by S. Baring-Gould

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S. BARING-GOULD

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AND JEWISH MINES**

Silver Store.

COLLECTED FROM

MEDÆVAL CHRISTIAN AND
JEWISH MINES.

BY

S. BARING-GOULD, M.A.,

AUTHOR OF 'CURIOUS MYTHS OF THE MIDDLE AGES,'
ETC.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

London :

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1882.


PR 4061
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1882

DEDICATED

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE DOWAGER VISCOUNTESS DOWNE.



355

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

IN a former work, 'Post-Mediæval Preachers,' the author drew attention to a class of ancient writers who are rarely studied, and whose very names are known only to the book-hunter. From these and kindred sources, and also from the Talmud, the majority of the legends and anecdotes in this volume have been drawn.

No apology is offered for introducing them to the public. It is not in the power of many to toil through ponderous tomes, written in languages with which they are not familiar; and it is proper for those who have facility and leisure for this study, to employ what they have acquired for the public good.

It has afforded the writer no little pleasure to bring, like Goldner, roses of gold out of the gloomy, tangled

overgrowth of Mediæval fancy and superstition, in the hopes that the drudgery and routine of nineteenth century life may not have dulled the keenness of public perception of the beautiful and pure and true.

Although the sources whence some of these tales have been drawn are not strictly speaking Mediæval, yet the writers from whose volumes they have been immediately derived, did not invent the stories, but took them from earlier writers. In such cases as the originals have not been accessible to me, I have given the reference to the later compilation.

Some may object to the introduction of lighter pieces at the end of the book ; but the 'Silver Store' would not have fairly represented the genial, laughter-loving, as well as moral and devout temper of the ages which invented these tales, had the element of grotesqueness been excluded. The droll and the lovely were strangely intermixed and wonderfully blended in the Mediæval mind, as is instanced in the architectural masterpieces of the middle ages, where the quaint gargoyle harmonizes with the angel and the flower.

Two or three of the humorous pieces at the end of the volume certainly hit the ladies rather hard. It must be

remembered by forbearing and forgiving woman, that the perpetrators of these stories were confirmed old bachelors.

Lest the writer should be supposed to sympathise with these ungenerous attacks, he has appended in the notes the originals on which the verses are based, which will clear him of the imputation of having invented these libels, and will afford the curious choice specimens of monkish Latin.

Let the fair sex remember also, that, where the writer has been free to express his own sentiments, as in Dr. Bonomi, he has not spared the lords of creation, and that compensation is offered in the former part of the volume. Surely Beruriah and Ruth will make amends for Mrs. Malone and the Judge's wife. A few of the pieces in the 'Silver Store' have already appeared in 'Fraser's Magazine,' and one in 'Temple Bar.'

DALTON, THURSDAY

March 1, 1855.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

The author of these verses entirely disclaims to be a poet; he has done nothing more than versify sundry legends and anecdotes that he has come across in his reading, in hopes that in this form they may give pleasure to those who are not exacting in their demands. They were written and published fourteen years ago, and have gone out of print. A few additional pieces have been added, but none of more recent origin, as none have been written more recently. The sources from which these tales have been drawn are inaccessible to most readers, and this serves as the author's apology for their introduction.

LEW TRENCHARD, DEVON,

March, 1881.

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