APOLLO & KEATS ON BROWNING: A FANTASY, AND OTHER POEMS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649353613

Apollo & Keats on Browning: A Fantasy, and Other Poems by Clifford Lanier

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

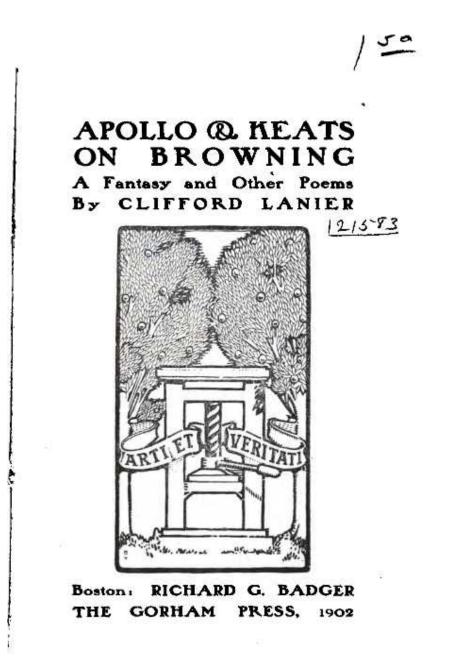
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CLIFFORD LANIER

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THE GORHAM PRESS, BOSTON

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TO HER -

My lovely and steadfast comrade—Whose approval has ever been my most welcome (aurel (*love's* reserve yielding to the lures of Art), I offer this Volume.

LOVE'S RESERVE

TO WILHELMEIN

The poet, raptured, gazing wifeward, said : "Thou art the self of Beauty to my sight;

From dainty feet to glory-crowned head Thy figure shapen 18 in lines of light:

With perfect rhyme those lithe arms, upward spread, A pulsing couplet form in rhythm right;

And o'er thy bosom drape the vestments white Tenderly as words by music vestured. If verse now had the graphic warmth of sun, If Love could body what his heart would hide,

If thou wert less than wifely vestaled nun,

Dear love of thee might yield to Art's fond pride, And, dressed in poet's breath, these veils aside. Thou should'st be wife and poem metged in one."

APOLLO AND KEATS ON BROWNING

A FANTASY

The god Apollo once met Master Keats, And, greeting "howdye," passed the time o' day: The god had quit Olympus for the street's Diversion: tired of Heaven's celestial play, The thefts of Mercury and high dead-beats, Had seized his sun-spoked "wheel" and sped away To seek in mortal haunts some novel thrill.— As masks in German slums Dutch "Kaiser Will."

"Good morning, Pol!" The bright young mortal said; "How goes it with the gods these new, sad days? How fare Hyperion and the mighty dead? And sweet Endymion in the Latmian maze? Now Pan's no more, who makes his leafy bed To woo soft sleep amid his flocks a-graze? When you to great Olympus make return I would go too: my yearnings fairly burn To know some things that earthlings cannot tell; For instance, who world-laureate next shall be? Whether the crusty critic goes to Hel * * * * * * Icon or to the sweeter Castaly? You gossip with the Muses, and right well You, instantly, can tell an ecstasy, Or true or false,-pray tell me, is it true That "Algy" Swinburne is endorsed by you?"

"Softly, sweet John," Apollo answers him :---"I'm here for dots myself, and fain would know The latest venturers in the rhyming swim. And, on my way, I touched at Mars to blow A while and mend my sun-"wheel's" dented rim: I met there Alfred Tennyson and Poe, Just come to meet Rob. Browning, so they said, And Lowell, Whittier, Emerson,-late dead."

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(19月日日