

# **A BOOKMAN'S BUDGET**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649004614

A bookman's budget by Austin Dobson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**AUSTIN DOBSON**

**A BOOKMAN'S  
BUDGET**



# A BOOKMAN'S BUDGET

*Good-bye, my Book. To other eyes,  
With equal mind, I now address you,  
Since in Dame Fortune's lap it lies  
Either to ban you or to bless you.*

*You have been long a 'care not light':  
If those for whom you were intended  
Refuse to read your page aright,  
You must not therefore feel offended.*

*This is a Game we play, my Book:  
Sometimes one scores, sometimes one misses,  
And though the lot for which we look  
Be neither bread-and-cheese nor kisses,*

*The point is: Was your purpose good?  
Your meaning plain to comprehension?  
Have you successfully withstood  
All tedium, tattle, spite, pretension?*

*Have you contrived no verbal haze  
To hide your poverty of matter?  
Have you, unjustly, failed to praise,  
Or have you, feebly, stooped to flatter?*

*You won't be free from fault, I know.  
None would believe me if I said it.  
But still—you did your best, and so,  
That should be counted to your credit.*

A. D.



HOW SAD IS LIFE WITHOUT A FRIEND!

*From a copperplate by William Blake in vol. III of  
Salzmann's 'Elements of Morality', 1791*

A  
BOOKMAN'S BUDGET

COMPOSED AND COMPILED BY  
AUSTIN DOBSON

HUMPHREY MILFORD  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS  
LONDON EDINBURGH GLASGOW NEW YORK  
TORONTO MELBOURNE CAPE TOWN BOMBAY

1917



PRINTED BY FREDERICK HALL  
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
OXFORD, ENGLAND

College  
Library

PK  
4626  
E64

TO

ARTHUR WAUGH

1890-1917

*Time marks our days with white and black  
In his Perennial Almanack ;  
But there's one day I don't forget,  
And that's the day when first we met.*

## PREFACE

*DESPITE the pitfalls of a Preface, a few words are required to explain the origin and growth of this desultory miscellany. During an enforced suspension of plans and projects, I found it expedient to take up some temporary occupation. Casting about for the needful initial suggestion, I happened on an old note-book in which, for several years, it had been my practice to jot down extracts from my reading which had either appealed to me personally or had influenced my writing. These I began to transcribe; and speedily found them multiply under my pen. Then, in quest of further material, I went on to forage among certain forgotten causeries I had once contributed to a now-extinct periodical, adding, from time to time, divers stray copies of bookish versicles not yet comprised in any collection of my poems. Presently an encouraging friend suggested that I might 'enliven my character' by including a few original adversaria on things in general. This I at once essayed to do; and thus came gradually to intersperse sundry detached passages from my printed prose—passages which, to my over-heated imagination, appeared to invite an attention they had not hitherto obtained. The outcome of my labours is the present compilation. As will be apparent, it is mainly literary. There*