

**ASSIDUITY: BEING A MEMOIR OF
THE LATE MR. RICHARD H. HART,
OF STAWELL (SOME TIME
PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN
NATIVES ASSOCIATION)**

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Assiduity: Being a memoir of the late Mr. Richard H. Hart, of Stawell (some time president of the Australian Natives Association) by Thos. Williams

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THOS. WILLIAMS

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Brookline

ASSIDUITY.

In Memoriam



Yours truly
R. H. Hart

Published under the auspices of the Australian Natives' Association.

ASSIDUITY:

BEING A

Memoir of the late Mr. Richard H. Hart,

OF STAWELL

(SOME TIME PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIVES' ASSOCIATION).

BY THE

REV. THOS. WILLIAMS.

"He, being dead, yet speaketh."

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INDEX.

Frontispiece :—Portrait of Mr. R. H. Hart.

	PAGE
PREFACE	i.
INTRODUCTION	7
PARENTAGE, CHILDHOOD, AND EARLY BOYHOOD	12
WESLEY COLLEGE	47
MR. HART AS A LOCAL PREACHER	63
FAREWELL TO COLLEGE	85
THE AUSTRALIAN NATIVES' ASSOCIATION	126
"THE FLOWER QUEEN"	155
PARLIAMENTARY ASPIRATIONS	175
LAST DAYS	189
CONCLUSION	225

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PREFACE.

The difference observable in this memoir, when compared with most others that belong to its class, is the result in part of necessity and in part of design.

OF NECESSITY—because Mr. R. H. Hart did not keep a diary, his correspondence was limited, and his life only a commenced one. Consequently the material by which the compiler of a memoir is enabled to make its subject tell the story of his own life could not be supplied.

OF DESIGN—because young people complain that memoirs are monotonous in their details, and the style of relating those details is a stereotyped one. These evils I have striven to avoid.

Inasmuch as this book is published under the auspices of the Australian Natives' Association, I have endeavored to respect the non-sectarian and non-political character of the Association ; this I hope I have done without the sacrifice of any principle of faith or honor.

Well aware that he who walks only in the tracks made by other men will make no discoveries, nor have the sweets of variety at his disposal, I have ventured to leave such tracks

at times, and if in doing so I have offended against any canon provided for work of this kind, I have done so unconsciously, and may hope to be forgiven.

That some parts of this memoir show great minuteness of detail is admitted; a cause for this has been intimated; and, to that cause may be added an intense desire to make the book interesting to young readers, and to those also who are engaged in teaching the young.

If I could do so I would gladly give the name of every author to whom I am indebted, but to do so is an impossibility. I wish, however, to state my indebtedness to J. H. Ingham for help in depicting "The Flower Queen"; and Edwin Arnold, M.A., C.S.I., for many of the Oriental citations introduced because apposite and new.

I will hope to be indulged for saying that the quotations placed before the several chapters are selections from my own reading, and will, I believe, be found pertinent to that part of the chapter to which they are referred.

I gladly record my obligations to Mr. Thomas F. Hart for undertaking to see the memoir of his brother through the press during my unavoidable absence from Victoria.

No one is more conscious of the faults of this little book than the compiler of it is; nevertheless as some of these are traceable to a sense of duty to the departed, and others of them to an endeavour to impart instruction whilst affording pleasure, I may hope for consideration on the plea that secured pardon for the slave of Hassan.

This is the substance of the story as it is told by Edwin Arnold:—

Hassan, the son of Ali, made a banquet unto sheiks and lords. The slave who bore round the smoking pillaw carried it in Badham's dish, carved from rock-crystal, with the feet in gold, and garnets round the rim; but the boy slipped and broke the precious dish into shreds of beauty, and scalded the son of Ali. The guests were loud in their denunciations of the slave, and in asking for his instant decapitation. The boy fell with his face to the earth and reminded his lord that "Paradise is for them that check their wrath;" this text was acknowledged, and the boy sobbed on, "Also, 'tis writ, *Pardon the Trespasser.*" "I forgive," replied Hassan, and then he addressed his guests thus:—

"* * * Lords! he hath marred the dish, but mended fault with wisdom."

THOS. WILLIAMS.

Hyrncastre,

10 Seymour Crescent,

August, 30th, 1885.