THE MANNERS OF MY TIME

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649084685

The manners of my time by C. L. Hawkins Dempster

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

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THE MANNERS OF MY TIME

BY

C. L. HAWKINS DEMPSTER

AUTHOR OF "THE MARITIME ALPS AND THEIR SEABOARD," ETC.





LONDON

GRANT RICHARDS LTD.

ST MARTIN'S STREET
MDCCCCXX

DEDICATED

TO

MY SISTER HELEN

I do not know how old Ulysses may have been when he boasted that he "had seen the manners of his time." I suspect that this first of great travellers must have been elderly, and that he had also "suffered a sea-change," inasmuch as he was only, on turning home at last, recognised by his dog.

I am seventy-eight years of age, and in this twilight of life I can lay claim to having seen, in different latitudes, a fair amount of the manners,

and of the want of manners, of my time.

In this book I have tried, like a sundial, to mark only the bright hours, of which, thank God, there has been no lack. I dedicate it to-day to my sister Helen, because she it was who shared the most of my experiences, and because she, till her own health failed, helped me to bear the burden of sickness.

I feel that my weight of years must render this book less vivid than it ought to be. I regret this, but such as the book is, I dedicate it to her, and to the many friends, gentle and simple, alive and dead, who have helped, advised, amused or consoled.

THE AUTHOR.

24 PORTMAN SQUARE, 1912.

EDITOR'S PREFACE

Miss C. L. H. Dempster died at Cannes on the 8th of May 1913, but owing to the European war it has only now become possible to publish *The Manners of my Time*. The "Sister Helen" to whom the volume is dedicated having died in 1917, the task of editing it has fallen to me, the authoress's goddaughter.

To all lovers of the Riviera Miss Dempster's book, The Maritime Alps and their Seaboard, is

well known.

Of her earlier writings, The Hôtel du Petit St Jean, Vera, Iseulte and Blue Roses were popular with the novel-readers of her day. Vera, a story of the Crimean war, was translated into Russian, and Blue Roses was to be found on almost every bookstall in America.

In 1891 Miss Dempster joined the Roman Church, and it was the wish of her sister that the proceeds of this volume should be devoted to the Chapel of St Charles des Carrières, a little church between Cannes and Le Cannet which Miss Dempster helped to build for the quarrymen living in that neighbourhood.

ALICE KNOX.

23 CADOGAN GARDENS, LONDON. 1919.