JUNE: A BOOK FOR THE COUNTRY IN SUMMER TIME

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June: A Book for the Country in Summer Time by H. T. Stainton

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H. T. STAINTON

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Trieste



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JUNE:

A BOOK FOR THE COUNTRY

IN SUMMER TIME.



H. T. STAINTON.

" If the whole of human life were like a free English day in June, we should cease to wish for ' snother and a better world." "

LONDON: LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN & LONGMANS.

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L. D. A.,

WHO FIRST SUGGESTED

THAT THE APPEABANCE OF

"AN ANNUAL"

IN THE SUMMER TIME

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APPROPRIATELY DEDICATED.

PREFACE.

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"No great object," said Lord Cranworth, on introducing his Plan for a Consolidation of the Statutes to the consideration of the House of Lords, "was ever accomplished without some enthusiasm." Perhaps enthusiasm may not be altogether useless in effecting a *little* object.

The object of the following pages is to show how much the pleasures of country life may be increased by some acquaintance with the various forms of animal and vegetable life with which we are surrounded. Whether this be a great or a little object is a point which will probably always remain in dis-

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PREFACE.

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pute, and it does not become me to express any opinion on that matter.

If this little book meet with a favourable reception, and be found to answer the end in view, I may probably bring out a companion to it another year.

H. T. STAINTON.

MOUNTSVIELD, LEWISBAN, April 14, 1856.

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JUNE.

In our climate the month in which the summer solstice occurs is one of peculiar interest; it is the first month in which summer really asserts its supremacy. Much of its predecessor has been more or less under the subjection of snarling east winds, which render the temperature more painful to the feelings than what we experience in mid-winter.

In June, with but few exceptions, summer enters into undisturbed possession, and the season for tourists and travellers has commenced.

One cannot help pitying the unfortunate inhabitants of tropical countries, to whom the charms of a long summer's day are unknown, and one can well understand the feeling which induced Mr. Richardson, whilst writing at Calcutta his "Flowers and Flower Gardens," to expatiate with some rapture on the charms of June in England :--" If the whole of human

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