

HEINE'S BOOK OF SONGS

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Heine's Book of Songs by Heinrich Heine & Sir Theodore Martin & Edgar A. Bowring

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HEINRICH HEINE & SIR THEODORE MARTIN & EDGAR A. BOWRING

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"'T WAS IN THE GLORIOUS MONTH OF MAY."—Page 82.

Seri St. Barbara
Detroit

Heinrich HEINE'S
Christmas 1873

BOOK OF SONGS

Compiled from the Translations by

SIR THEODORE MARTIN, K.C.B.

AND

EDGAR A. BOWRING, C.B.



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MDCCCXCII

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE.

This edition of Heine's Book of Songs is an entirely new one in which appears the best work of two of the most accomplished translators of Heine's fascinating poetry, Sir Theodore Martin, K. C. B., and Edgar A. Bowering, C. B. Poems almost equal in number have been chosen from the translations by each of these; but wherever both have translated the same poem, the better rendering has been selected for this edition.

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HEINRICH HEINE.

HEINRICH (or Henry) Heine was born in the Bolkerstrasse, at Dusseldorf, on the 12th of December, 1799; but, singularly enough, the exact date of his birth was, until recently, unknown to his biographers, who, on the authority of a saying of his own, assigned it to the 1st of January, 1800, which he boasted made him "the first man of the century." In reply, however, to a specific inquiry addressed to him by a friend on this subject a few years before his death, he stated that he was really born on the day first mentioned, and that the date of 1800 usually given by his biographers was the result of an error voluntarily committed by his family in his favor at the time of the Prussian invasion, in order to exempt him from the service of the King of Prussia.

By birth he was a Jew, both of his parents having been of that persuasion. He was the eldest of four children, and his two brothers are (or were recently) still alive, the one being a physician in Russia, and the other an officer in the Austrian service. The famous Solomon Heine, the banker of Hamburg, whose wealth was only equalled by his philanthropy, was his uncle. His father,

however, was far from being in opulent circumstances. When quite a child, he took delight in reading *Don Quixote*, and used to cry with anger at seeing how ill the heroism of that valiant knight was requited. He says somewhere, speaking of his boyish days, "apple tarts were then my passion. Now it is love, truth, freedom, and crab-soup." He received his earliest education at the Franciscan convent in his native town, and while there had the misfortune to be the innocent cause of the death by drowning of a schoolfellow, an incident recorded in one of the poems in his "*Romancero*." He mentions the great effect produced upon him by the sorrowful face of a large wooden Christ which was constantly before his eyes in the Convent. Even at that early age the germs of what has been called "his fantastic sensibility, the food for infinite irony," seem to have been developing themselves. A visit of the Emperor Napoleon to Dusseldorf when he was a boy affected him in a singular manner, and had probably much to do with the formation of those imperialist tendencies which are often to be noticed in his character and writings. He was next placed in the Lyceum of Dusseldorf, and in 1816 was sent to Hamburg to study commerce, being intended for mercantile pursuits. In 1819 he was removed to the University at Bonn, which had been founded in the previous year, and there he had the advantage of studying under Augustus Schlegel. He seems, however, to have remained there only six months, and to have then gone to the University of Göttingen, where, as he tells us, he was rusticated soon after matriculation. He next took up his abode at Berlin, where he applied himself to the study of philosophy, under the direction of