

PETRARCH, AND OTHER ESSAYS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649145843

Petrarch, and other essays by T. H. Rearden

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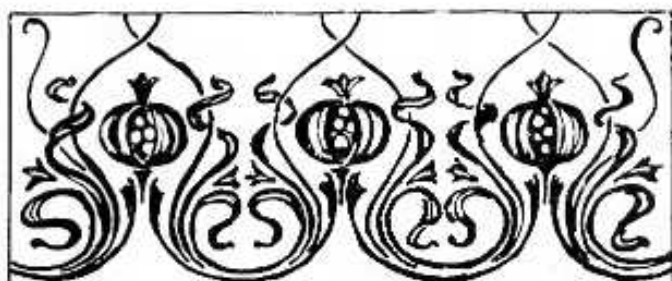
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T. H. REARDEN

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

TIMOTHY H. REARDEN.

JUDGE TIMOTHY H. REARDEN was born of Irish parentage, in Wooster, Ohio, in the year 1839. His father, Dennis Rearden, died while Timothy was a child, and the widow, with two young children, but with the cheerful courage of her race, undertook the battle of life in their behalf.

The brightness and wit of her little boy soon made him friends. At the age of sixteen he graduated from the High School of the city of Cleveland, and four years later from Kenyon College.

In college he was both the delight and the terror of the professors. His scholarship and scholarly tastes were their pride, his affectionate nature endeared him to their hearts, yet his escapades were sometimes serious; but because in part of his ability, and more because of the love he inspired, no severe penalties were inflicted. When he left college he had, in a very unusual degree, impressed himself upon the memory and affections of professors and students alike.

Reporting for newspapers, teaching in the Cleveland public schools, and studying law occupied the next three or four years.

In 1862, Judge Rearden served for a time in an Ohio regiment, in response to an urgent short-term call. This touch of army life set many chords, patriotic and poetic, vibrating in him, which always remained sensitive.

*Timothy H.
Rearden.*

It was not his fortune to have been engaged in any great battle; but who that knew him can doubt his possession of that splendid courage so common in his race, and only needing opportunity to attain distinction or a glorious death?

About 1866 he came to California, and for a time was employed in the United States Mint. Bret Harte, Ambrose Bierce, and some others of literary tastes and acquirements were fellow-employés, and Rearden soon became one of a little coterie of scholars, artists, and writers.

While others wrote and published, he wrote but did not, save in rare instances, publish. His literary tastes were so exacting, that nothing he did seemed to satisfy him. Essays and poems were written and laid aside, as not, in his opinion, coming up to the requirements of publicity. But the great drawback that prevented his coming before the people was his shyness. Nothing could induce him to put himself in a position where he would attract attention. In this age of brass, such modesty as his, joined with such merit, is a rare spectacle.

Meantime he prosecuted his law studies, and became in time a learned lawyer, but remained all too modest to push himself or his fortunes. After leaving the Mint he worked a while for other lawyers, but about 1872 opened an office of his own. What came to him in the way of business he disposed of with a wealth of learning and research out of all proportion frequently to the importance of the matter involved.

The study of languages and of literature was his great delight. It is not much of exaggeration to say that Greek was as familiar to him as is our