

THE DRIFT OF PINIONS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649397877

The drift of pinions by Robert Keable

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ROBERT KEABLE

**THE DRIFT
OF PINIONS**

THE DRIFT OF PINIONS.

Printed by
WILLIAMS, LEA & CO., LTD.,
Clifton House,
Worship Street, E.C. 2.

THE DRIFT ❁ ❁
 ❁ *OF PINIONS*

By *ROBERT KEABLE,*

Author of "A City of the Dawn," "Simon Called Peter," etc.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

Not where the wheeling systems darken,
And our benumbed conceiving soars!—
The drift of pinions, would we hearken,
Beats at our own clay-shuttered doors.

FRANCIS THOMPSON.

FOURTH EDITION.

SKEFFINGTON & SON, LTD.
PATERNOSTER HOUSE, ST. PAULS, E.C. 4.

DEDICATION.

MY DEAR STEPHANIE,

It seems years ago since you, among the first, were good enough to like my stories, and, still better, that great subject with which most of them had to do. Do you remember how I would sit on the buffet by the side of the big fire, and how you would lose yourself in the depths of the great chair opposite? Others there were, but I think you understood the best of all, although you said so little while the firelight flickered on your hair. Most of the stories of this book I did not know then; but indeed I think "the drift of pinions" against my door has grown with the years, and that therefore you will like these at least as well. At any rate, I offer them to you, in very grateful remembrance (but with a little wistfulness) of the days that come not again.

But this alone will not quite content you. I remember, if you do not, that you would always lean forward at the close of a story and say: "*Is it really true?*". And you will be sure to want to know that same about my stories now.

I can content you: I would not dare to play with the "traffic of Jacob's ladder." I have no use for stories that are not true of that wonderful land to which it leads—especially in these days, when all of us have such interests there. But you must forgive

me if I have very thoroughly disguised my stories, and, in their own interest, dared to set them in frames of my own that seem best to show them up. Tell your friends not to try to guess identities! *Camouflage*, you know, is well learnt here.

So read idly, shall we say. Sit back in your chair by the fire this winter, and try to forget for a little that there is hell let loose on earth. Trust me: I tell you that I know, that the land that is very far off is very near, and that the King may be seen there in His Beauty. You will believe it, Stephanie?

Ever yours,

R. K.

B.E.F., FRANCE.

In the Octave of the Angels, 1917.

CONTENTS.

CHAP.	PAGE
I. IN NO STRANGE LAND	9
II. OUR LADY'S PAIN	23
III. THE CALL	38
IV. JONATHAN HAYNES	49
V. CATTLE MONEY	58
VI. FATHER FRANCIS	68
VII. THE PENITENCE OF PETER	78
VIII. THE KINGDOM	88
IX. BLACK MAGIC	98
X. ST. MICHAEL ARCHANGEL	107
XI. THE IRON BRACELET	118
XII. "SO AS BY FIRE"	127
XIII. STEFANO	136
XIV. JUDAS	151
XV. THE MIDNIGHT MASS	162
XVI. THE ACTS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES	172

