

**GLEANINGS AFTER TIME:
CHAPTERS IN SOCIAL
AND DOMESTIC HISTORY**

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Gleanings after time: chapters in social and domestic history by G. L. Apperson

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G. L. APPERSON

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AND DOMESTIC HISTORY**



FRONTISPIECE.

See page 125.

GLEANINGS AFTER TIME

CHAPTERS IN
SOCIAL AND DOMESTIC HISTORY

EDITED BY

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AUTHOR OF

"AN IDLER'S CALENDAR," "BYGONE LONDON LIFE," ETC.

WITH TWENTY-NINE ILLUSTRATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

IN all magazines and periodical publications, amid much that is ephemeral and necessarily of but momentary interest, there are always articles which are of more or less permanent value. Yet, unless they are separately collected by their authors, such contributions are lost and buried for ever in the bound volumes of the magazine in which they appeared; and a set of magazine volumes is one of the least often disturbed of literary cemeteries.

If this be true of contributions to the ordinary run of magazines, it is still more true of articles in specialized and quasi-scientific periodicals. During the more than a quarter of a century of *The Antiquary's* existence a very large number of papers of much more than passing or "topical" interest have appeared in the pages of its forty odd volumes. A few of these have been collected by their writers, but the bulk of them—especially those in the earlier volumes of the magazine—are not now so easily accessible as they deserve to be. It has been thought well, therefore, to collect, chiefly from the earlier volumes of *The Antiquary*, some of these papers, which, on account of their interest or permanent value, deserve to be preserved in a convenient and handy form.

The importance of classification has been kept in view, and the present volume contains a selection of articles which may fairly be grouped under the heading of "Social History." Other volumes may follow under other headings.

The articles here reprinted are arranged in a roughly chronological order, and have been chosen primarily as

illustrating various phases of the social and domestic life of the past, a side of archæological study and research which has always possessed an immense fascination for the general reader of the outer circle as well as for the professed antiquary.

It is not the bald details of dates and succession of monarchs and dynasties, nor the records of battles and strife for unknown ends and long-forgotten causes, that make the discoveries of recent years in Assyria, and Crete, and Egypt of such enthralling interest. It is the human element that thrills both the explorers and those who read the record, wondrous as an Arabian Night's tale, of their discoveries. The revelations of how men lived and worked, loved and sorrowed and died, of the tools they used, of the furniture of their homes and temples, the details of their lives and the surroundings of their deaths, the illustrations of their national and domestic joys and sorrows, fears and beliefs—all these are the things which make archæology a science of vital importance to all who take the slightest interest in the history and development of their kind.

And so, in selecting for re-publication some of the earlier contents of *The Antiquary*, regard has been had to the human and domestic side of old English social life. The task of selection has not been easy, for this side of archæological study has always been kept well to the front in the pages of the magazine, and material is consequently abundant; but it is hoped that a fairly representative selection has been made, and that these pictures of English and American life in the days gone by may not only please and instruct the reader, but may serve as a stimulant to further study of the domestic and social history of our forbears—a study of inexhaustible interest.

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PROLOGUE

THE days decay as flower of grass,
The years as silent waters flow ;
All things that are depart, alas !

As leaves the winnowing breezes strow ;
And still while yet, full-orbed and slow,
New suns the old horizon climb,
Old Time must reap, as others sow :
We are the gleaners after Time !

We garner all the things that pass,
We harbour all the winds may blow ;
As misers we up-store, amass
All gifts the hurrying Fates bestow ;
Old chronicles of feast and show,
Old waifs of bygone rune and rhyme,
Old jests that made old banquets glow :—
We are the gleaners after Time !

We hoard old lore of lad and lass,
Old flowers that in old gardens grow,
Old records writ on tomb and brass,
Old spoils of arrow-head and bow,
Old wrecks of old worlds' overthrow,
Old relics of Earth's primal slime,
All drift that wanders to and fro :—
We are the gleaners after Time !

Envoy.

Friends, that we know not and we know !
We pray you by this Christmas chime
Help us to save the things that go :
We are the gleaners after Time.

AUSTIN DOBSON.