

**THE POETICAL WORKS OF
ROBERT BROWNING. VOL. XVII.
ASOLANDO: BIOGRAPHICAL
AND HISTORICAL NOTES TO THE
POEMS. [LONDON-1894]**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649757961

The Poetical Works of Robert Browning. Vol. XVII. Asolando: Biographical and Historical Notes to the Poems. [London-1894] by Robert Browning

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 BROWNING

**THE POETICAL WORKS OF
ROBERT BROWNING. VOL. XVII.
ASOLANDO: BIOGRAPHICAL
AND HISTORICAL NOTES TO THE
POEMS. [LONDON-1894]**

THE POETICAL WORKS
of
ROBERT BROWNING

VOL. XVII.

ASOLANDO

*BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTES
TO THE POEMS*

LONDON
SMITH, ELDER, & CO., 15 WATERLOO PLACE
1894

TO MRS. ARTHUR BRONSON

To WHOM but you, dear Friend, should I dedicate verses—some few written, all of them supervised, in the comfort of your presence, and with yet another experience of the gracious hospitality now bestowed on me since so many a year,—adding a charm even to my residences at Venice, and leaving me little regret for the surprise and delight at my visits to Asolo in bygone days?

I unite, you will see, the disconnected poems by a title-name popularly ascribed to the inventiveness of the ancient secretary of Queen Cornaro whose palace-tower still overlooks us: Asolare—"to disport in the open air, amuse oneself at random." The objection that such a word nowhere occurs in the works of the Cardinal is hardly important—Bembo was too thorough a purist to conserve in print a term which in talk he might possibly toy with: but the word

is more likely derived from a Spanish source. I use it for love of the place, and in requital of your pleasant assurance that an early poem of mine first attracted you thither—where and elsewhere, at La Mura as Cà Alvise, may all happiness attend you!

Gratefully and affectionately yours,

R. B.

ASOLO : October 15, 1889.

CONTENTS

ASOLANDO	PAGE
<i>PROLOGUE</i>	1
ROSNY	4
DUBIETY	6
NOW	8
HUMILITY	9
POETICS	10
SUMMUM BONUM	11
A PEARL, A GIRL	12
SPECULATIVE.	13
WHITE WITCHCRAFT.	14
BAD DREAMS: I.	16
" " II.	17
" " III.	23
" " IV.	26

	PAGE
INAPPREHENSIVENESS	29
WHICH?	31
THE CARDINAL AND THE DOG	34
THE POPE AND THE NET	36
THE BEAN-FRAST	39
MUCKLE-MOUTH MEG	44
ARCADES AMBO	47
THE LADY AND THE PAINTER	48
PONTE DELL' ANGELO, VENICE	50
BEATRICE SIGNORINI	62
FLUTE-MUSIC, WITH AN ACCOMPANIMENT	82
"IMPERANTE AUGUSTO NATUS EST——"	93
DEVELOPMENT	102
REPHAN	109
REVERIE	117
<i>EPILOGUE</i>	130
BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTES TO THE FORMS .	133
GENERAL INDEX	289
INDEX TO FIRST LINES OF SHORTER FORMS	301

ASOLANDO

