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Book _____

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A Complete Collection

OF THE

316

Quotations and Inscriptions

IN THE

Library of Congress,

BY

Emily Loiseau Walter.

—♦—

THIRD EDITION.

—♦—

Words are things ; and a small drop of ink,
Falling like dew upon a thought, produces
That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think.

Byron.

The very leaf of the papyrus becomes a Shinar,
stately with towers, round which the Deluge of
ages shall roar in vain.

Bulwer-Lytton.

—

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1866.

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PREFACE.

Amidst the gleaming of white polished marble, the gorgeous golden ornamentation of the Vestibule touches at once the joyous keynote of coloring in the Congressional Library.

As we seem to be lifted, spell-bound, into a region of perpetual brightness, so by the various quotations and inscriptions which cluster and wreath about its exquisitely decorated halls and pavilions—glistening and glittering with every ray and hue of noble thought and elevating sentiment—the mind is flooded with sunshine.

Lingering, here and there, in a very aureola of glory, sunbeams of wisdom shed their lambent light around the deeply expressive mural representations on every side. At first, we are lost in happy bewilderment, but soon we awaken to the sweeter consciousness of being gently led by some gracious Ariadne through all this brilliant maze of truth and beauty. For not only are painting and inscription ever charmingly interwoven; but the latter, in many

instances, is the open sesame to the hidden treasures of meaning in an artist's special achievement.

At the end of our delightful tour of inspection, we find perfect repose in the contemplation of "Human Understanding," so exquisitely typified in the dome of the rotunda. Ethereal whites and blues, tenderly blending with faintest greens and violets, bring to us far-off touching echoes of the grand symphony of color to which we have just been listening; while the sublime sentient beauty of the painting itself suggests words for this distant heavenly music,—Above—Beyond!

How clearly, then, in responsive reverberation, we hear the kindred thought-echo,—

Too low they build, who build beneath the stars.

The Quotations and Inscriptions have been collected in the form of a convenient book of reference, as they constitute one of the most unique and attractive features of the Library.

For the sake of perspicuity, occasional mention has been made of the subject of a painting or poem, or the location of a set of inscriptions.

E. L. W.

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SUNBEAMS OF THOUGHT
IN THE
CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY.

+ +

UNDER THE MARBLE MOSAIC, THE MINERVA
OF PEACE.

*Nil invita Minerva quæ monumentum ære
perennius exegit.*

Minerva who erects a monument more last-
ing than brass.

+ +

Give instruction unto those who cannot pro-
cure it for themselves.

CONFUCIUS.

+ +

The poets who, on earth, have made us heirs
Of truth and pure delight by heavenly lays.

WORDSWORTH.

+ +

ORPHEUS.

One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

TENNYSON.

JASON.

A glorious company, the flower of men,
To serve as model for the mighty world,
And be the fair beginning of a time.

TENNYSON.

PROMETHEUS.

To the souls of fire, I, Pallas Athena, give
more fire, and to those who are manful, a might
more than man's.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

ACHILLES.

Ancient of days! august Athena! where,
Where are thy men of might, thy grand in soul?
Gone—glimmering thro' the dream of things
that were.

BYRON.



THALIA.

Descend, ye Nine! descend and sing;
Wake into voice each silent string.

POPE.

TERPSICHOE.

O heaven-born sisters! source of Art!
Who charm the sense, or mend the heart.

POPE.

POLYHYMNIA.

Say, will ye bless the bleak Atlantic shore;
And in the West bid Athens rise once more?*

POPE.



IN THE LIBRARIAN'S ROOM.

Litera scripta manet.

That which is written endures.

Liber delectatio animæ.

The book a delight of the soul.

Efficiunt clarum studio.

Study the watchword of fame.

Dulces ante omnia musæ.

The muses above all things delightful.

In tenebris lux.

In darkness light.



L'ALLEGRO.

Come, thou Goddess, fair and free,
In heav'n yclep'd Euprosyne,
And by men, heart-easing mirth.

Haste thee, Nymph, and bring with thee
Jest, and youthful Jollity,
Quips, and Cranks, and wanton Wiles,
Nods, and Becks, and wreathéd Smiles,
Such as hang on Hebe's cheek,
And love to live in dimple sleek.

MILTON.



*Altered from the following line in the Tragedy of Brutus:
Or bid the furious Gaul be rude no more.

11. PENSEROSO.

Hail, thou Goddess, sage and holy,
Hail, divinest Melancholy.

Come, but keep thy wonted state,
With even step, and musing gait,
And looks commercing with the skies,
Thy rapt soul sitting in thine eyes :
There held in holy passion still,
Forget thyself to marble.

MILTON.



[UNEXPRESSED.

Dwells within the soul of every Artist
More than all his effort can express.

No great Thinker ever lived and taught you
All the wonder that his soul received.

No true Painter ever set on canvas
All the glorious vision he conceived.

No Musician
.

But be sure he heard, and strove to render
Feeble echoes of celestial strains.

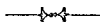
No real Poet ever wove in numbers
All his dream.

Love and Art united
Are twin mysteries ; different, yet the same.

Love may strive, but vain is the endeavor
All its boundless riches to unfold.

Art and love speak, but their words must be
Like sighings of illimitable forests.

ADELAIDE PROCTER.



Order is Heaven's first law.

POPE.

Memory is the treasury and guardian of all things.

CICERO.

Beauty is the creator of the universe.

EMERSON.



A little learning is a dangerous thing ;
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring.

POPE.

Learning is but an adjunct to ourself.

Love's Labour's Lost.

Studies perfect nature and are perfected by
experience.

BACON.

Dreams, books, are each a world ; and books,
we know,
Are a substantial world, both pure and good.

WORDSWORTH.

The fault is not in our stars,
But in ourselves, that we are underlings.

Julius Cæsar.

The Universal Cause
Acts to one end, but acts by various laws.

POPE.

Creation's heir, the world, the world is mine.

GOLDSMITH.

Vain, very vain, my weary search to find
That bliss which only centres in the mind.

GOLDSMITH.



Man raises, but time weighs.

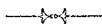
MODERN GREEK PROVERB.

Beneath the rule of men entirely great,
The pen is mightier than the sword.

BULWER-LYTTON.

The noblest motive is the public good.

VIRGIL.



The first creature of God was the light of
sense; the last was the light of reason.

BACON.

The light shineth in darkness, and the dark-
ness comprehendeth it not.

JOHN I. 5.

All are but parts of one stupendous whole,
Whose body Nature is, and God the soul.

POPE.

In nature all is useful, all is beautiful.

EMERSON.



THE LIFE OF MAN.

For a web begun God sends thread.

OLD PROVERB.

The web of our life is of a mingled yarn,
good and ill together.

All's Well that Ends Well.

Comes the blind Fury with th' abhorred shears,
And slits the thin-spun life.

MILTON.

This is the state of man: To-day he puts forth
The tender leaves of hope,

To-morrow blossoms,
And bears his blushing honors thick upon him.

The third day comes a frost,

And

. nips his root,
And then he falls.

Henry VIII.



Too low they build, who build beneath the
stars.

YOUNG.

There is but one temple in the Universe,
and that is the Body of Man.

NOVALIS.

Beholding the bright countenance of Truth,
in the quiet and still air of delightful studies.

MILTON.

The true university of these days is a collec-
tion of books.

CARLYLE.

Nature is the art of God.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

There is no work of genius which has not
been the delight of mankind.

LOWELL.

It is the mind that makes the man, and our
vigor is in our immortal soul.

OVID.

They are never alone that are accompanied
by noble thoughts.

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.

Man is one world, and has another to at-
tend him.

HERBERT.

Tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.

As You Like It.

The true Shekinah is man.

CHRYSOSTOM.

Only the actions of the just
Smell sweet and blossom in the dust.

SHIRLEY.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting.

LONGFELLOW.

The history of the world is the biography of
great men.

CARLYLE.

Books will speak plain, when counsellors
blanch.

BACON.

Glory is acquired by virtue but preserved
by letters.

PETRARCH.

The foundation of every state is the educa-
tion of its youth.

DIONYSIUS.

The chief glory of every people arises from
its authors.

DR. JOHNSON.

There is one only good; namely, knowledge:
and one only evil; namely, ignorance.

DIODEGENES LAERTIUS.

Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers.

TENNYSON.

Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore, get
wisdom; and with all thy getting, get under-
standing.

PROVERBS iv.

Ignorance is the curse of God;
Knowledge, the wing wherewith we fly to
heaven.

Henry VI.

How charming is divine philosophy!

MILTON.

Books must follow sciences, and not sciences
books.

BACON.

In books lies the soul of the whole pastime.

CARLYLE.

Words are also actions, and actions are a
kind of words.

EMERSON.

Reading maketh a full man; conference, a
ready man; and writing, an exact man.

BACON.

Science is organized knowledge.

HERBERT SPENCER.

Beauty is truth; truth, beauty.

KEATS.



ABOVE THE SYMBOLICAL STATUES.

Religion.

What doth the Lord require of thee, but to
do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly
with thy God?

MICHEAS vi. 8.

Commerce.

We taste the spices of Arabia, yet never feel
the scorching sun which brings them forth.

ANONYMOUS.*

History.

One God, one law, one element,
And one far-off divine event,
To which the whole creation moves.

TENNYSON.

*From an old pamphlet on the East India trade.

Art.

As one lamp lights another, nor grows less,
So nobleness enkindleth nobleness.

LOWELL.

Philosophy.

The inquiry, knowledge, and belief of truth,
is the sovereign good of human nature.

BACON.

Poetry.

Hither, as to their fountain, other stars
Repairing, in their golden urns draw light.

MILTON.

Law.

Of law there can be no less acknowledged
than that her voice is the harmony of the world.

HOOKER

Science.

The heavens declare the glory of God ; and
the firmament showeth his handiwork.

PSALM xviii. 1.



IN THE PAVILION OF THE SEALS.

'Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliance with any portion of the foreign world.

WASHINGTON.

Let our object be our country, our whole country, and nothing but our country.

WEBSTER.

Thank God, I also am an American.

WEBSTER.

Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations—entangling alliance with none.

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

The agricultural interest of the country is connected with every other, and superior in importance to them all.

ANDREW JACKSON.

Let us have peace.

U. S. GRANT.

The aggregate happiness of society is, or ought to be, the end of all government.

WASHINGTON.

To be prepared for war, is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace.

WASHINGTON.

That the nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

LINCOLN.



Knowledge is power.

BACON.

E pluribus unum.

Liberty!