

COMINCIA LA COMEDIA DI
dante alleghieri di fiorenze nella q̄le tracta
delle pene et punitioni de uitii et demeriti
et premii delle uirtu: Capitolo primo della
p̄ma parte de questo libro loquale se chiama
inferno: nel quale l'autore fa probemio ad
tutto el tractato del libro:.

NEL mezo del camin di m̄a uita
mi trouai p̄na selua oscura
che la dir̄cta uia era smarrita
Et quanto adir q̄lera cosa dura
esta selua seluagia aspra e forte
che nel pensier renoua la paura

Tante amara che pocho piu morte
ma per tractar del ben chio uitrouai
di ro dellatre cose chi uo scorte

In non so ben ridir come uentrai
tantera pien di sonno in su quel punto
che la uerace uia abandonai

Ma poi che fui appie dum colle gionto
ladoue terminaua quella ualle
che mauea di paura el cor compuncto

Guardai in alto et uidde le sue spalle
uestite gia de raggi del pianeta
che mena dritto altrui per ogni calle

Allor fu la paura un pocho cheta
che nell'aco del cor mera durata
la nocte chio passai contanta pietà.

BULLETIN OF
THE JOHN RYLANDS
LIBRARY
MANCHESTER

EDITED
BY THE
LIBRARIAN

VOL. 6

JULY, 1921

No. 3

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made for the delivery of the following lectures during the ensuing session of 1921-22. This is the twentieth annual series of public lectures to be so arranged.

FORTH-
COMING
PUBLIC
LEC-
TURES.

EVENING LECTURES (7.30 p.m.).

Wednesday, 12th October, 1921. "Autobiography in the 'Divina Commedia'." By Edmund G. Gardner, Litt.D., Professor of Italian Studies in the University of Manchester.

Wednesday, 9th November, 1921. "The Study of Mediæval Chronicles." By T. F. Tout, M.A., Litt.D., F.B.A., Professor of History and Director of Advanced Studies in History in the University of Manchester.

Wednesday, 14th December, 1921. "The Roots of Jewish Apocalyptic." By A. S. Peake, M.A., D.D., Rylands Professor of Biblical Exegesis in the University of Manchester.

Wednesday, 11th January, 1922. "The Portrait of a Roman Gentleman from Livy." By R. S. Conway, Litt.D., F.B.A., Hulme Professor of Latin in the University of Manchester.

Wednesday, 8th February, 1922. "Lessing." By C. H. Herford, M.A., Litt.D., Emeritus Professor of English Literature in the University of Manchester.

Wednesday, 8th March, 1922. "Euripides' 'Alcestis': an Interpretative Recital." By Richard G. Moulton, M.A., Ph.D., Emeritus Professor of Literary Theory and Interpretation in the University of Chicago.

AFTERNOON LECTURES (3 p.m.).

Tuesday, 15th November, 1921. "House Moving: a Tract for the Times." By J. Rendel Harris, M.A., Litt.D., D.Theol., etc., Hon. Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge.

Tuesday, 17th January, 1922. "Consider the Lilies." By J. Rendel Harris, M.A., Litt.D., D.Theol., etc.

Tuesday, 14th February, 1922. "The Reversal of Erroneous World-Judgments." By J. Rendel Harris, M.A., Litt.D., D.Theol., etc.

Tuesday, 7th March, 1922. "Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' and its Traditional Misinterpretation." By Richard G. Moulton, M.A., Ph.D., Emeritus Professor of Literary Theory and Interpretation in the University of Chicago.

Since the publication of our last report of progress regarding the Louvain Library Scheme of Reconstruction, which appeared in January last, a further consignment of 2363 volumes has been dispatched, making an aggregate total of 38,002 volumes actually transferred to Louvain, to the great joy and relief of the Rector, the Staff, and the Students of the University. In their name, we take this opportunity of again thanking the donors, whose names are included in the accompanying list, for their generous and welcome gifts which have made possible the achievement of this result.

(The figures in brackets represent the number of volumes contributed.)

ANONYMOUS.	(1)
The FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, Auckland.	(7)
The Right Honourable Earl BEAUCHAMP, K.G., Madresfield Court, Malvern.	(1)
Mrs. C. P. FIGGIS. (In memory of her son Lenox Paton Figgis).	(7)
G. H. FOWLER, Esq., Aspley Guise.	(128)
Mrs. J. N. FORSYTH, Tobermory.	(31)
Mrs. GALLIATA, Perugia, Italy.	(1)
HENRY GUPPY, Esq., M.A., Manchester.	(9)
The Rev. Dr. ARCHER-HOUBLON, London.	(13)
Dr. J. B. HURRY, Reading.	(8)
Mrs. H. JONES, Aspley Guise.	(53)

LOUVAIN
LIBRARY
RECON-
STRUC-
TION.

LIST OF
CONTRI-
BUTORS.

- The Governors of the JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY. (79)
- The Governors of the JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY. (In memory of the late Dr. D. Lloyd Roberts.) (839)
- Mrs. M. KING, Kew, Surrey. (15)
- A. D. LINDSAY, Esq., M.A., Oxford. (13)
- Mrs. MAUD, Luscombe, Clevedon. (8)
- W. K. MARRIOTT, Esq., Great Baddow. (288)
- The WARDEN AND FELLOWS OF MERTON COLLEGE, Oxford. (43)
- J. MURRAY, Esq., London. (1)
- The NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB, Whitehall. (C. R. Sander-son, Esq., B.A., Librarian.) (37)
- The NORFOLK AND NORWICH SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY. (Per Mrs. Bates, O.B.E., Norwich.) (108)
- Dr. R. L. POOLE, Oxford. (12)
- The ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE. (K. M. Martindell, Esq., Hon. Secretary.) (70)
- Messrs. SHERRATT AND HUGHES, Manchester. (93)
- In memory of the late William Henry Smith, Esq., M.P., 186 Strand, and Bournemouth. (8)
- HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE. (L. W. Hill, Esq., Director of Publications.) (207)
- Lord TENNYSON, Farringford, Freshwater. (10)
- Miss D. THOMAS, Llandudno. (2)
- H. WAITE, Esq., Ackworth School. (In memory of Fielden Thorp, Esq., York.) (172)
- H. WELSH, Esq., Woodchester. (12)
- L. C. WHARTON, Esq., London. (3)
- D. WILLIAMS, Esq., Australia. (Per the Leyton Literary Club.) (1)

We are glad to be able to announce that the foundation stone of the new library building, which is to replace the one so wantonly destroyed by the Germans in 1914, is to be laid on Thursday, the 28th of July, in the presence of His Majesty, the King of the Belgians, and Monsieur Raymond Poincaré, Ex-President of the French Republic.

FOUNDA-
TION
STONE
OF NEW
LIBRARY
TO BE
LAID.

The writer hopes to assist at this interesting ceremony, as the representative, not only of the Governors of the John Rylands Library, but also of the many contributors in all parts of the world, who so

readily co-operated with us in our efforts to assist the authorities of the University of Louvain in their heavy task of making good the ruin wrought by the war. We shall take the opportunity of congratulating the Rector, Monsignor Ladeuze, in their name, upon what we venture to describe as "this happy issue out of all their afflictions," and also of expressing to him the hope that the future history of the University may be still richer and more glorious than its memorable past.

Singularly appropriate, and even prophetic, were the words which stood inscribed over the principal entrance to the University Halls: "SAPIENTIA ÆDIFICAVIT SIBI DOMUM," and it is to be hoped that the same words embodying as they do a confession of the faith which sustained our friends throughout the years of their exile, will be given a prominent place over the main portal of the new library.

The six-hundredth anniversary of the death of Dante, which took place at Ravenna on the 14th September, 1321, is being commemorated this year, with appropriate veneration throughout the entire world of letters. In Manchester, the commemoration has taken the form of an exhibition of the poet's work in the main reading-room of this library. It is intended to serve the two-fold purpose of rendering homage to the most eminent of Italy's sons, and at the same time of directing attention to the wealth of material which is here available for the study of his immortal works, comprising as it does five manuscripts and upwards of 6000 printed volumes.

Of the five manuscripts, three are exhibited: a copy of the "Canzoni" written in the latter part of the fourteenth century, which is ornamented with large initial letters and illuminated borders enclosing portraits of Dante and his innamorata; a copy of the "Divina Commedia," with the date 1416, containing a number of variants from the common text, made by B. Landi de Landis, of Prato; and a sixteenth century copy of the "Divina Commedia," with the "Credo" and other poems at the end, which at one time was in the possession of Cavaliere S. Kirkup.

Of the printed editions there are the three earliest folios of the "Divina Commedia," printed in the same year (1472) at Foligno, Mantua, and Jesi respectively. The only serious gap in the collection is the fourth folio, undated, which issued from the press of Francesco del

COM-
MEMO-
RATION
OF
DANTE'S
DEATH
IN 1321.

Tuppo, at Naples, between the years 1473 and 1475. This edition is of extreme rarity, not more than three or four copies having survived. With this exception, the entire range of the early and the principal critical editions of the text of Dante's poem is represented, those of outstanding importance being included in the exhibition.

Of the first illustrated edition, which has also the distinction of being the only one printed in Florence during the fifteenth century, there are two copies shown, one containing twenty of the engravings, said to have been executed by Baccio Baldini after Botticelli. Of the Venetian illustrated editions there is a full range commencing with that of March, 1491. On many of the illustrations of this edition the same small "b" is found, which occurs in several other Venetian books, including the famous "Hypnerotomachia," printed by Aldus in 1499, and which may stand for the name of the designer, the engraver, or for the workshop in which they were engraved.

Amongst the many other editions exhibited is that printed at Venice in 1555, which has the distinction of being the first edition in which the epithet "Divina" is applied to the "Commedia". Dante himself was spoken of as the "divino poeta Fiorentino," long before the epithet "divina" was applied to his poem.

One of the outstanding volumes in the exhibition is the monumental folio edition of the entire "Opere" of Dante, printed on vellum at the Ashendene Press of Mr. St. John Hornby, in 1909.

The occasion was further marked by the holding of a combined meeting of the British-Italian League and the Manchester Dante Society, in the conference room of the Library, on Wednesday the 20th of April. In the unavoidable absence of the President (the Bishop of Salford) Professor C. H. Herford presided over a gathering of upwards of a hundred Dante enthusiasts, and an address was given by the Librarian on "Dante as viewed from the bibliographer's standpoint".

The exhibition will remain on view until the beginning of September, when it will be replaced by one of a more general character, with the object of conveying some idea of the range and importance of the library's collections of manuscripts and printed books.

It should be stated, however, that the primary purpose of the projected exhibition is to signalize the visit to the library of members of the Library Association, on the occasion of the holding of their annual conference in Manchester.

Twenty-two years have elapsed since the Library Association last held its conference in this city, in September, 1899, just a month before the formal dedication of this library to public use, which took place on the 6th of October. At the time it was greatly regretted that the building could not be ready for opening until a month after the Library Association's annual meeting had taken place.

LIBRARY
ASSOCIA-
TION
CONFER-
ENCE.

It is true that many members of the Association honoured us by assisting at the dedication ceremony, but the Association as a body has not hitherto been formally welcomed to the library.

Arrangements are being made, however, for members of the conference to be received by the Chairman (Sir Henry Miers, F.R.S.) and the Governors of the Library, during the afternoon of Tuesday, the 13th of September, when every facility will be given to them for inspecting the building and its equipment, including the recently erected wing with its enamelled steel stack, and also the special exhibition which is to be arranged for the occasion.

In the present issue Dr. Rendel Harris makes another of his identifications in the region of lost literature connected with the early Christian Church. Dry bones are his speciality, but this time they are resurrected as well as dry. Dr. Harris, whose art is to make dry bones live, thinks that he has found a great fragment of the work of Marcion of Pontus (the Pontic wolf of the early fathers) in which he showed the inconsistency between the Old and New Testaments, between the God of Law and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. If Dr. Harris has hit the mark the wolf is not such a bad wolf as he has traditionally been represented.

DR.
RENDEL
HARRIS
ON
MAR-
CION OF
PONTUS.

We may look for some more discoveries before long from the same diligent excavator.

We desire to associate ourselves with the appeal which was made recently in the columns of "The Times," by the secretaries of the Historical Association, the Early English Text Society, and other kindred learned societies, together with the librarians of great libraries which are unsupported by state funds, to the printing and publishing trade, urging them to bring down the cost of book-production so that valuable contributions to scholarship may not be starved out of existence.

PROHIBI-
TIVE
COST OF
BOOK
PRODUC-
TION.

It is admitted on all hands that the general economic conditions are improving, and it is not unreasonable therefore to ask that the improvement may be reflected in the cost of book-production.

It must be quite obvious that the printing and publishing trades themselves will be the sufferers if books of real scholarship and research are no longer issued.

To our personal knowledge the committee of one of the University Presses have been compelled reluctantly to decline, or indefinitely to postpone, the publication of works embodying results of scholarship of far-reaching importance, simply on account of the prohibitive cost of production.

The remedy lies with the trade, both masters and men, and unless there is an immediate and a substantial reduction in prices, the result is likely to be disastrous to them.

At the best of times books embodying the result of long and valuable work in scientific and historical research have been very costly to produce, and as they do not make any popular appeal they have comparatively few purchasers. It is none the less of importance that they should be published in order to preserve the results of such research for the world.