

JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS

A SHORT HISTORY
OF THE
RENAISSANCE IN ITALY



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A SHORT HISTORY
OF THE
RENAISSANCE IN ITALY

TAKEN FROM THE WORK OF
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LONDON
SMITH, ELDER, & CO., 15 WATERLOO PLACE
1893

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PREFACE

It had been often represented to my husband that his 'Renaissance in Italy' in a shorter form would be acceptable to many who are without the leisure or the inclination to take up the subject in the character of students. But though, through stress of other work, he was indisposed to return to the subject, he was quite willing that our friend Colonel Pearson, who has been associated with us for some years at Davos, and who is well acquainted with Italy, should carry out his own views as to what might be interesting and useful to those who would be satisfied with the subject in a more popular form. It will be seen, therefore, that in the choice of his materials Colonel Pearson's object has been to select and arrange for those who know Italy, or hope in the future to do so, whatever may sustain or promote an interest in its history, its art, and its literature. With regard to the success with which this may have been done, it was my husband's thought to record here the opinion he frequently expressed — that the intention of his large work had been thoroughly appreciated by Colonel Pearson, and its essence reproduced without any important omission. To have seen this reflection of it, in a form which he agreed might attract a larger public than he had appealed to, was, it may be well to add, a source of great pleasure to him during the last winter of his life.

J. C. SYMONDS.

AM HOP, DAVOS PLATZ:
August 11, 1893.