

**CHAUTAUQUA READING  
CIRCLE LITERATURE;  
SONG AND LEGEND  
FROM THE MIDDLE AGES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649493494

Chautauqua Reading Circle Literature; Song and Legend from the Middle Ages by William D. McClintock & Porter Lander McClintock

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**WILLIAM D. MCCLINTOCK & PORTER LANDER MCCLINTOCK**

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Chautauqua Reading Circle Literature

# SONG AND LEGEND

FROM THE  
MIDDLE AGES

SELECTED AND ARRANGED

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FLOOD AND VINCENT  
The Chautauqua-Century Press  
MEADVILLE PENNA  
150 FIFTH AVE. NEW YORK  
1893

This One



T955-2SK-K4PT

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*The Chautauqua-Century Press, Meadville, Pa., U. S. A.*  
Electrotyped, Printed, and Bound by Flood & Vincent.



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## READING LIST.

Owing to the necessarily fragmentary character of the readings of this volume, it has seemed well to the editors to indicate a list of books for those who wish a wider reading in Medieval Literature. These books are all available and cheap.

### 1. French Literature.

- (1) Longfellow's "Poets and Poetry of Europe."
- (2) O'Hagan's "The Song of Roland."
- (3) Bourdillon's "Aucassin and Nicolette."
- (4) Malory's "Morte Darthur."
- (5) Chancer's "Romance of the Rose."
- (6) Caxton's "Reynard the Fox."
- (7) Saintsbury's "Short History of French Literature."

### 2. Spanish Literature.

- (1) Longfellow, as above.
- (2) Ormsby's "The Cid."
- (3) Lockhart's "Ancient Spanish Ballads."

### 3. Scandinavian Literature.

- (1) Longfellow, as above.
- (2) Anderson's "Norse Mythology."

### 4. German Literature.

- (1) Longfellow, as above.
- (2) Lettson's "Nibelungenlied."
- (3) Scherer's "History of German Literature."

### 5. Italian Literature.

- (1) Longfellow, as above.
- (2) Rossetti's "Dante and his Circle."
- (3) Cary's "The Divine Comedy."
- (4) Norton's "The Divine Comedy."
- (5) Campbell's "The Sonnets and Poems of Petrarch."

## PREFACE.

THE aim of this little book is to give general readers some idea of the subject and spirit of European Continental literature in the later and culminating period of the Middle Ages—the eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth centuries.

It goes without saying that translations and selections are, in general, inadequate to the satisfactory representation of any literature. No piece of writing, of course, especially no piece of poetry, can be perfectly rendered into another tongue; no piece of writing can be fairly represented by detached portions. But to the general English reader Continental Mediæval literature, so long as it remains in the original tongues, is inaccessible; and translations of many entire works are not within easy reach.

What translation and selection can do in this case, is to put into the hands of the ordinary student of the Middle Ages sufficient material for forming an estimate of the subjects that interested the mediæval mind and the spirit in which they were treated. And this is what the general reader desires. Matters of form and expression—the points that translation cannot reproduce—belong, of course, to the specialist.

The claim that so slender a volume of selections can represent even the subject and spirit of so vast a body of literature, is saved from being unreasonable or presumptuous by a consideration of the fact that, from causes easy to trace, the national literatures of Continental Europe had many common characteristics: the range of subjects was not unlimited; the spirit is the same in all.

No English is included for two reasons: Mediæval English literature is easily accessible to those readers for whom this book is prepared; during the special period in which the