

**THE PASCHAL: POEMS
FOR PASSION-TIDE
AND EASTER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9781760577971

The Paschal: poems for Passion-tide and Easter by A. Cleveland Coxé

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A. CLEVELAND COXE

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AND EASTER**

THE PASCHAL

Poems

FOR PASSION-TIDE AND EASTER

BY

A. CLEVELAND COXE

Ecce Agnus Dei

SECOND EDITION.

NEW YORK

JAMES POTT & COMPANY

1892

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Press of J. J. Little & Co.,
Astor Place, New York.

PS
1449
C636p
1892

PREFACE.

THE poems here collected have been written, nearly all of them, at the Season they celebrate, in successive years. Some of them were written more than forty years ago. The "Paschal New-Moon," if I recollect, is the oldest of the series.

All that it may be desirable to say as introductory to this book will be found in the Notes. I beg my kind reader to consult them, on points that may require Scripture citations and other references for the elucidation of the text. If any of the poems are worth reading at all, they will be found worth reading more than once, in connection with the Church Lessons of the Season.

The Paschal-Season, as here understood, extends from the appearance of the Paschal New-Moon to the octave of Pentecost, or Trinity Sunday. How sublimely the Christian poet has said—

"As through a zodiac moves the ritual year
Of Holy Church : stupendous mysteries,
Which whoso travels in her bosom eyes,
As he approaches them, with solemn cheer."

This book is designed to open some of those "stupendous mysteries," especially to minds just

beginning to know and love the Church's system, and to feel the attractions of her holy methods for imparting a knowledge of the Scriptures, and of those "truths that wake to perish never." I pray God that all who accept my guidance in these Scriptural Meditations may be helped by it toward that Heavenly City which the glory of the Lord doth lighten, and "the Lamb is the light thereof."

A. C. C.

LEACOTE, RHINEBECK-ON-HUDSON,
April, 1889.

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TO MARY AND ELIZABETH,

IN PARADISE.

PROEM.

I.

THE rainbow oft, on tears of April-tide,
In the sweet week of Easter, we behold ;
Its bow of beauty, like the Crucified
Bending from heaven, all nature to enfold
In Love's embrace. Then from that throne of
gold,
'Mid iris-lustres, in the highest sphere,
Seems to bend down its arch of emeralde ;
And Paradise, it seemeth very near,
As if the dwellers there perchance our sighs
might hear.

2.

Sweet sisters, in repose ye wear new names,
Yet let me dream ye hearken. Once, in time,
Ye were my muses, and ev'n more than fame's
I courted your applause, in youth's glad prime,
When oft ye listened to my boyish rhyme