The octocentenary festival of the University of Bologna, June 1888, including the student's festivities described by the Edinburgh students' delegate, ... octocentenary address of Professor Giosuè Kirkpatrick J
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Author: Kirkpatrick J

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The Octocentenary Festival of the University of Bologna

June 1888

INCLUDING

The Students' Festivities
Described by the Edinburgh Students' Delegate

The Octocentenary Ode
Of Professor Enrico Panzacchi

And

The Octocentenary Address
Of Professor Giosue Carducci

BY

John Kirkpatrick
Professor in the University of Edinburgh

Edinburgh
James Thin, Publisher to the University
1888
"Thou art the home of all Art yields!"

Byron.

76106
PREFACE.

The following account of the memorable Octocentenary Festival of the University of Bologna is contained in a series of letters written at the time to the *Scotsman* newspaper, with a few subsequent corrections and additions, and is supplemented by a description of the Students' Festivities by Mr A. H. Briggs Constable, M.A., Delegate of the Students' Representative Council of the University of Edinburgh, communicated originally to the *Evening Dispatch*. It is therefore largely to the kindness and courtesy of the Editors of these newspapers and of my friend and congenial fellow-traveller Mr Constable that this little volume owes its existence. Lest, however, these descriptions might have been thought too slender to warrant republication, I have added, by kind permission of the Authors, Professor Panzacchi's beautiful Octocentenary Ode, with an attempted English version, and a translation of Professor Carducci's Octocentenary Address (which, in its Italian garb, was
considered a masterpiece of oratory), as well as a few other documents. Nothing would have been easier than to make further additions from the congratulatory addresses and odes written for the occasion; but these will probably be published ere long by the University in a solemn Octocentenary Volume, while this little book is merely intended to convey a general idea of the nature of the Festival. Hence the unavoidable omission of many important names and interesting events, which I hope will not be deemed unpardonable by the persons concerned. To what has been said in the letters I have only now to add that all who attended the Festival will agree in pronouncing it a singularly interesting and memorable celebration, in expressing their gratitude to their many kind and hospitable friends, and in cordially wishing long life and prosperity to the venerable and far-famed University of Bologna. All honour and hearty thanks in particular to the Rector of the University, to the Sindaco of Bologna, to the Minister of Public Instruction, and above all to their gracious Majesties the King and Queen of Italy!
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ADDENDUM.

It would be unjust to my alma mater Cambridge and the University of Glasgow, and particularly to their accomplished delegate, if I omitted to add that an exceptional honour was accorded to the beautiful Greek Ode written by Professor Jebb for the occasion. It was translated into Italian by Professor Pelliccioni of Bologna, and this translation was printed and circulated by order of the University; but unfortunately I was not aware of the fact until after this volume had been printed.

J. K.
I.

PRELIMINARY.

MILAN; FRIDAY, 8TH JUNE 1888.

"So you are going to Bologna?" said a Philistine friend to me the other day; "is not that where they make the sausages?" "Yes," replied I, mildly; "and I believe it is also rather famous for its soap, and bonbons, and maccaroni, and other manufactures, and I understand it is lighted with gas and well supplied with water; and so I mean to go and see all these attractions." Sancta simplicitas! Bologna, as all students of Italian history or of Roman Law are aware, is one of the most ancient and famous of Italian cities. An excellent idea of its many attractions may be obtained from Mr
Baedeker's "Northern Italy," or from Mr Hare's "Walks in Italian Cities," or from almost any other book of Italian travel; but, as the town will become the cynosure of all eyes during the next few days, it may not be out of place to recall a few of its characteristics. Originally the ancient Etruscan Felsina, it was conquered by the Gallic Boii, and called by them Bononia; and it is partly to the Etruscan and partly to the Gallic period that the very interesting tombs of Marzabotto belong. In B.C. 190 it was colonised by the Romans, and became a place of great importance. About the end of the eighth century Charlemagne constituted Bologna a free city, whence it derives its proud motto, "Libertas;" and ever since that period its inhabitants have been famous for their sturdy love of independence. Hardly less famous is a second motto of the city, "Bononia docet," fre-