

If such a result is to be effected it must be largely owing to the teachings of those to whom is committed the task, not only of storing the memories, and forming the manners of the rising generation, but also of *moulding their tastes*. In the full consciousness of this, I commend my subject to your earnest consideration closing with the reflection which I wish to leave upon your minds:—The sense of the need must precede the demand, which will bring forth Hand-books of Art, Schools of Design, and other more advanced agencies towards the end in view.

OUTLINES OF ENGLISH LITERATURE, No. XII.

Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio.

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ITALY. *The dawn: rise of the first Italian literary triumvirate, Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio.* The history of Italy is the history of feud. When Dante was born (1265) each of the great cities in the north of Italy spoke a dialect which its neighbours despised; each was the centre of a political activity essentially its own. Heart-stirring conflict called forth the energies of the first Italian literary triumvirate. Florence, Dante's birth-place, was conspicuous in the strife. To understand clearly the position of affairs, the history of the Guelf-Ghibelline factions should be studied. Their source was Germany, then imperially one with Italy. The Italian cities were mainly Guelf, the nobles Ghibelline. Dante fought on the Guelf side, (Campaldino) but when the Guelfs leagued with the Pope and endeavoured to introduce French rule into Italy, Dante changed sides, because Ghibelline meant national unity, and the removal of Italy's cancer, a thoroughly debased church, aiming at temporal power. During Dante's boyhood Florence was famous for commercial enterprise and for fine art—*Cimabue, Michael Angelo*. When Dante began literary work the troubadour element was strong; this element was blended with Neo-Platonism. Royalty and nobility all over the south and west of Europe joined the band of the troubadours, Richard I of England among them. Ladies, imbued with troubadour spirit instituted Courts of Love, which tried in Platonic fashion, every kind of love problem. These courts drew up long codes of love. Troubadour impulse expressed itself also in *Floral Games*, of which those of