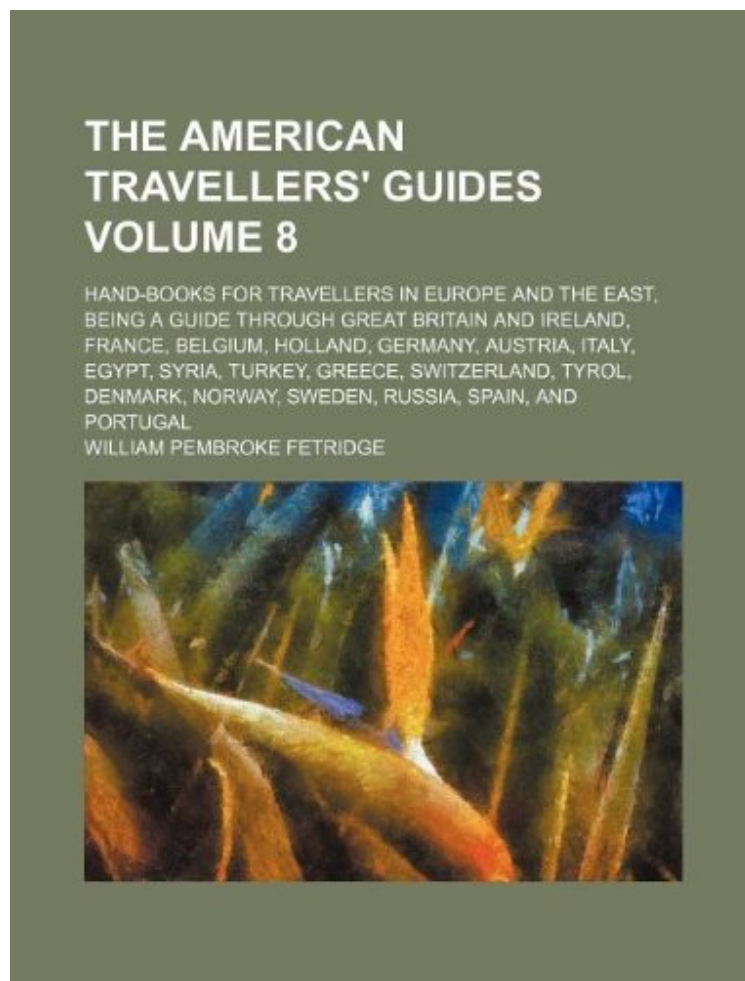


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William Pembroke Fetridge

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1869 Excerpt: ...of art, immortalized by Byron and Rogers, and revered as the birthplace of Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, Galileo, Michael Angelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Benvenuto Cellini, and Andrea del Sarto? What beautiful recollections of the past must naturally be awakened in the appreciative mind while tarrying in a spot which has given birth to such noble contributors of poetry and the arts? Beautiful gardens adorned with statues, vases, fountains, and other decorations, as well as the open squares or piazzas, continually attract the eye of the visitor; and the palaces, which are very numerous, each containing rare paintings and sculptures, form the principal object of interest in this delightful city, which is the pride of Tuscany. The climate of Florence is delightful, varying but 30 degrees from summer to winter. The walls of the city are entirely unavailable for defense in modern warfare; their principal use is for the purpose of collecting octroi duties. The city is entered by nine different gates. The gate Snn Gutto is an arch of triumph, erected in 1738 in commemoration of the entrance of Francis II. This gateway leads to Bologna and Fiesole. The bridges which cross the Arno are six in number, four stone and two suspension bridges. The stone bridges have been much injured at different times by the rising of the river, and some of them even carried away. The most easterly is the Ponte alle Grazie, or di Rubacorte, built by Lapo, father of Arnolfo, in 1237. There are numerous small houses on either side of it, and its great solidity has withstood the rushing of the waters, while all the others have been several times destroyed. The next is the Ponte Vecchio, built the second time in 1078. It is lined with shops on either side, which are mostly used by jewelers. The ce...