

**SELECTIONS FROM THE
POETICAL WORKS OF
MORTIMER COLLINS**

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Selections from the poetical works of Mortimer Collins by F. Percy Cotton

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F. PERCY COTTON

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THE POETICAL WORKS
OF
MORTIMER COLLINS

1704

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FROM
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OF
MORTIMER COLLINS

MADE BY
F. PERCY COTTON



LONDON
RICHARD BENTLEY & SON, NEW BURLINGTON ST.
Publishers in Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen
1886

1704

13.4

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TO MY COUSIN

FRANCES

WIDOW OF MORTIMER COLLINS

I DEDICATE THIS BOOK

PREFACE.

FOR the last ten years I have occupied much of my leisure time in putting music to Mortimer Collins' lyrics, and I have thus become familiar with the poet's works.

I discovered that many of the best poems were scattered about in magazines and newspapers, and therefore likely to be lost; so I have made it a labour of love, from time to time, to collect all these.

In putting together this volume my only difficulty has been to know what choice to make from such a wealth of material. I had intended at first to include only those pieces

which had not hitherto been collected; but, finding that Mortimer Collins' previous volumes of verse — namely, *Idylls and Rhymes*, 1855; *Summer Songs*, 1860; *The Inn of Strange Meetings*, 1870,—were all out of print, I thought well to reproduce a few of the best poems from those volumes.

Having access to the poet's papers, I have been fortunate in finding some pieces that have not yet been published, from which I have chosen a few.

It has often been asked who wrote the *Comedy of Dreams*, and where the book could be found. The work lived only in Mortimer Collins' brain, intended, no doubt, to be produced at some time when the pressing necessities of life were less upon him; but fragments of it were occasionally written down, merely to serve as mottoes