POEMS, CHIEFLY ON THEMES OF SCOTTISH INTEREST

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649471027

Poems, Chiefly on Themes of Scottish Interest by John Taylor & W. Lindsay Alexander

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN TAYLOR & W. LINDSAY ALEXANDER

POEMS, CHIEFLY ON THEMES OF SCOTTISH INTEREST

Trieste

POEMS,

CHIEFLY ON

THEMES OF SCOTTISH INTEREST.

BY

JOHN TAYLOR.

WITH INTRODUCTORY PREFACE BY

W. LINDSAY ALEXANDER, D.D.

'My heart gaes back to Auld Scotland.'

EDINBURGH: ANDREW STEVENSON.

1875.

DEDICATED BY PERMISSION

TO

ALEXANDER DUFF, D.D., LL.D.,

ETC. ETC. ETC.

I AM aware that I run some risk of blame in seeking to connect my humble labours with a name than which Scotland at this hour can boast none greater. My plea is that I am a working man, and that the feeling of admiration, of which I wish this little volume to be the expression, is one common to myself, with the class to which I belong. It is the attribute of the Scottish people to be ever able to perceive, and ever forward to acknowledge, nobility of character and grandeur of aim wherever they are found. The rare gifts and the unwearied labours which have so largely contributed to lay the foundations of a new and Christian India, and generally to strengthen the position of evangelical truth in the earth, they have long contemplated with an admiring thankfulness; and it is as one of them, and sharing their sentiments, that I lay this tribute at the feet of one so deserving of a far greater and worthier.

INTRODUCTORY PREFACE.

I HAVE been requested to write a few lines by way of introduction to this volume. With this request I willingly comply, as I thereby have the opportunity of commending to the notice of the public a work which they will find, I think, worthy of their notice.

The author tells his own story in the Autobiographical Sketch which he has prefixed to his poems. It will be seen from this that he is one of those who have had to cultivate literature under the disadvantages arising from imperfect early education, and amid the difficulties and discouragements of a labourer's lot, and a life of vicissitude and toil. The obstacles which have impeded his course have been of no ordinary kind; but amidst shifting scenes, rude and often rough companions, and constant hard labour, he has manfully striven to cultivate his mind, and has not unsuccessfully courted the Muse. His taste for reading, his sympathy with nature, his love of poetry, and his early Christian training have preserved him from the deteriorating influences to which he has been exposed, and have given a refinement and elevation to his modes of thought and feeling which one hardly expects to find in

one who, since he was ten years of age, has had to toil for his daily bread, and who for the most part of his life has had to work as a 'navvy.' His poetical tendency seems to have been born with him; at least it developed itself at so early an age, that he might almost say with Pope,

> 'As yet a child,
> I lisped in numbers, for the numbers came.'

And if he has not needed, like Pope, to invoke the Muse 'to help him through this long disease, his life,' he has in seasons of sorrow and trouble found her his friend and comforter, and has borrowed her aid to brighten seasons of enjoyment or delicate scenes of beauty and sublimity. Without claiming for him any high place among the sons of song, I commend his volume to all who can appreciate and relish genuine, unaffected feeling, true sympathy with nature and man, and pure sentiment expressed in language at once simple and refined.

W. LINDSAY ALEXANDER.

CONTENTS.

SACRED PIECES.