

**SIMPLE
SOUTHERN SONGS**

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Simple southern songs by Ida Caroline Harrell Horne & Herman Harrell Horne

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IDA CAROLINE HARRELL HORNE & HERMAN HARRELL HORNE

SIMPLE SOUTHERN SONGS



Ida C. H. Moore

Simple Southern Songs

BY
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EDITED BY HER SON
HERMAN HARRELL HORNE

PRIVATELY PRINTED

1916

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

The psychologist Höfding says: "The poetic form may cast a light on reality which it does not naturally or always possess, and the dominant feeling of the poet discovers an order of the universe in which his ideals find their satisfaction."

In the accompanying poems this poetic light is cast on the great universal experiences of life, such as friendship, love, nature, home, morality, religion and death. Interpreted through poetic sympathy and imaginative expression, these common experiences come to have for us uncommon meanings.

Poetry is the emotional interpretation of life. It stands in greatest contrast to the objective analysis of life provided by science, but is closely akin to both philosophy and religion. Philosophy is, or ought to be, the intellectual interpretation of life, and religion is our sense of values as divine. The content of poetry is a kind of philosophy and the spirit of poetry is a kind of religion. The poet feels keenly the situations of life and expresses his feeling in fitting form of rhythm and rhyme.

The reading of poetry refines feeling and so assists in the sympathetic interpretation of life. We come to see somewhat with the poet's eye and hear with his ear. Thereby we both enjoy and suffer more. The influence of poetry is especially needed in a materialistic or rationalistic age.

Wagner said, "All art is autobiography." In the deep sense that we see and express what we ourselves already are, this is true. Yet a poet can sympathetically speak for another in a way that is not strictly autobiographical, as, for instance, in the poem: "No Wine for Me," p. 129. The reader of these poems does not need to be told that they were written by a true heart in the midst of life's duties and beauties. He will feel their sincerity, simplicity, genuineness and unaffectedness. They are the writer's own life in rhyme. Thus this little collection may come to each recipient as a personal message and greeting.

The content of these poems is individual rather than social, factual rather than problematic, and optimistic rather than despairing. Here is art for life's sake, not for pure form's sake. The course of Nature is what it seems to be, and yields us moral and religious truths, but the hard experiences of human life are not final, be-