SPRING'S IMMORTALITY: AND OTHER POEMS

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Spring's Immortality: And Other Poems by Mackenzie Bell

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MACKENZIE BELL

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Trieste

To

Earl Hodgson,

from his friend

Mackenzie Bell.

15th Oct. 1895

SPRING'S IMMORTALITY:

AND OTHER POEMS.

NOTICES OF FIRST EDITION.

The Athenæum:—"Has an unquestionable charm of its own."

The Academy:—"There are poems in this volume which will bring light and cheer to many a drooping spirit. There are others—notably 'The Taking of the Flag' and 'The Keeping of the Vow'—that will be read with pleasure for the vigour with which they are written. And there are others—more particularly, perhaps, the sonnets—on which readers will dwell with the delight which thoughtful verse, the genuine outcome of true feeling, never fails to give. . . . Mr. Bell thinks his own thoughts, and expresses them in his own style and language."

The Saturday Review:—"Mr. Bell's poems must give pleasure to ears that are attuned to simple and unaffected song, and it is clear from the poet's suggestive and vivid 'Pictures of Travel'—an attractive section of the present volume—that he needs not an exceptional incitement to sing, nor anything of a spur at all. The poetic impulse, in fact, is a natural impulse with Mr. Bell, and in the 'poems of places' to which we refer the truth and freshness of the picture are due to the creative, rather than to the composing, art. The same directness of method may be noted in the spirited poem of 'The Keeping of the Vow,' an effective example of narrative in verse, in which the writer treats of Robert Bruce and his crusading vow."

The Speaker:—"His cheerful outlook is always refreshing."

The Daily News :—"Throughout a model of finished workmanship, and of that perfect sanity of the imagination which is the note of all our best work in this department of literature."

The Review of Reviews :—"This graceful little volume. . . . One or two of the poems in the 'Pictures of Travel' section are, owing to the very great success with which the details of natural beauty are treated, really notable; while the religious poems breathe an atmosphere of sincerity and devotion not a little refreshing."

Black and White :—"Both tuneful and charming."

The Bookman :—"Verse like Mr. Mackenzie Bell's . . . is sufficiently rare, and should be valued. These selections from former volumes, and some new poems, give one not a little pleasure. . . . His verse leaves on us the impression that we have been in company with a poet."

The Globe :—"Throughout one is struck by the evidence given of a sympathetic personality expressing itself in clear and well-turned strains. Everywhere the workmanship is good, the spirit serene, the standpoint generous. We have been attracted especially by the sonnets on Shakespeare, Browning, and Rossetti."

Publisher's Circular :—"Some of these poems have the rare quality of remaining in the memory. The volume contains much that lovers of genuine poetry will cherish."

Western Morning News :—"His descriptive poems are very fine, while his religious and historical efforts are by no means lacking in noble sentiment and poetic power."

Methodist Recorder :—"All through there is abundant evidence of true poetic gifts. The play of fancy is attractive, the sentiment usually elevating and free from all sentimentality, and the descriptions of scenery effective. The author has clearly a natural aptitude for seizing upon and expressing the poetical in nature and in human life. This is a refreshing book."

Spring's Immortality

AND

OTHER POEMS

By MACKENZIE BELL

AUTHOR OF "CHARLES WHITEHEAD: A FORGOTTEN GENIUS"

WITH NEW PREFATORY NOTE

SECOND EDITION

London

WARD, LOCK, AND BOWDEN, LIMITED

NEW YORK AND MELBOURNE

1895

To Edmund Clarence Stedman.

SEVERED from you by sundering seas I dwell—
  Never have clasped your hand, nor heard your voice—
  Never have seen your eyes make loving choice
Of mine to tell the truths words may not tell.

And yet I know you—oft in tranquil mood
  Your welcome songs—your wealth of critic lore—
  To me have brought a joy unfelt before,—
Or letters from you cheered my solitude.

January 19th, 1895.