# EDWARD CRACROFT LEFROY: HIS LIFE AND POEMS INCLUDING A REPRINT OF ECHOES FROM THEOCRITUS

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Edward Cracroft Lefroy: His Life and Poems Including a Reprint of Echoes from Theocritus by Wilfred Austin Gill & John Addington Symonds

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WILFRED AUSTIN GILL & JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS

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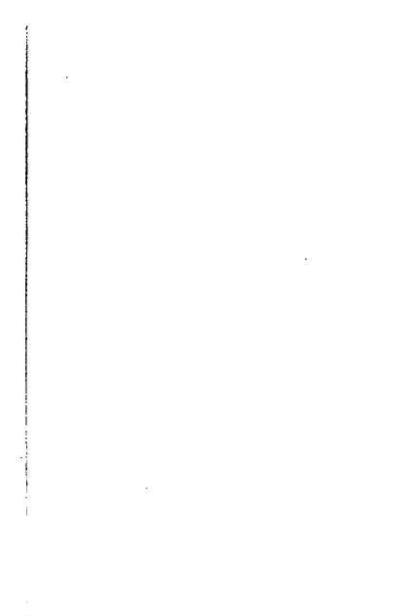
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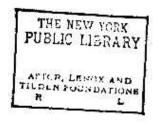
#### Edward Cracroft Lefroy

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### Edward Cracroft Lefroy His Life and Poems including a Reprint of Echoes from Theocritus

# By Wilfred Austin Gill

With a Critical Estimate of the Sonnets by the late John Addington Symonds

John Lane, The Bodley Head London & New York mdcccxcvii



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#### PREFACE

This little book calls for a few lines of justification. In 1885 the Rev. Edward Cracroft Lefroy published a volume of one hundred Sonnets ("Echoes from Theocritus and other Sonnets," Elliot Stock) in which literary critics at once recognised the true ring of poetry. Lefroy died in 1891 at the age of thirty-six. Shortly after his death, the late Mr. John Addington Symonds lighted upon this volume in one of the batches of books which were periodically sent out to him from England to his winter home in the Engadine. He instinctively singled it out as the production of a genuine poet. In a correspondence which ensued he repeatedly expressed to me his desire that these Sonnets should not be allowed to die. The book is now out of print, and Symonds's high estimate of Lefroy's work, even were it not endorsed by that of other competent authorities, would seem to furnish sufficient ground for the reprinting of the Sonnets.

But the personal side of Lefroy is seen only indistinctly through his poems. When I had told him something of the man and his conversation, Symonds intuitively perceived that "his life philosophy was even more noteworthy than his verse." In order, therefore, to bring the *complete* personality of Lefroy into clearer light, I gladly acceded to Symonds's suggestion that we should write a joint-memoir, he supplying a