

POEMS

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Poems by Emily Brontë & Charlotte Brontë & Anne Brontë

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EMILY BRONTË & CHARLOTTE BRONTË & ANNE BRONTË

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BY

CHARLOTTE, EMILY, AND ANNE BRONTË

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P O E M S

BY

CHARLOTTE, EMILY, AND ANNE

BRONTË

NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME PRINTED

NEW YORK

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PREFATORY NOTE

THE Brontë sisters published anonymously, in 1846, a little volume of verse with the title "Poems by Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell." This, however, was only a selection from their manuscripts, and much remained.

Charlotte Brontë, in 1850, after the death of her sisters, Emily and Anne, revised their novels, "Wuthering Heights" and "Agnes Grey," for a second edition. She included in this edition a few poems selected from the mass of their manuscripts. In the Preface to these volumes, dated September 19, 1850, she tells of the circumstance under which their first volume was published, and in a note to the poetical selections she apologizes for printing the poems which included some of Emily's, written when quite young and says:

"Usually it seems a sort of injustice to expose in print the crude thoughts of the unripe mind, the rude efforts of the unpracticed hand."

This statement is equally true now, a half century and more later, but since the manuscripts have been preserved a few copies ought to be printed. Even such immature fragments, as most

PREFATORY NOTE

of these are, are of interest to the student and the collector. The increased interest, the last few years, in the Brontës and their work, would alone be sufficient excuse for the printing, in this limited edition, of the more or less crude attempts at poetry.

The poems have been deciphered with some difficulty from the original manuscripts. Anne's verses and some of Emily's are written in an ordinary, quite legible handwriting, and are signed and dated, having in addition to her own name, generally, one or other of the fanciful names, Alexandrina Zenobia, Olivia Vernon, or Zerona.

All of Charlotte's and a few of Emily's verses which are here printed are written on little scraps of paper of various sizes, in minute angular characters, almost illegible, without punctuation, and the spelling often at fault. The effort has been made to print them here exactly as they were written, without attempt at correction.

Those of Charlotte's are generally signed and dated at the bottom, most of them having been written at the age of ~~thirteen~~.

Some of Emily's are signed or initialed and dated at the top. With others, only the date is given.

Lucy
MS. 1000

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