

POEMS

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Poems by John Lucas Tupper

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JOHN LUCAS TUPPER

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POEMS BY THE LATE
JOHN LUCAS TUPPER.

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SELECTED AND EDITED BY

WILLIAM MICHAEL ROSSETTI

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PREFATORY NOTICE.

Books and writings about the "Præraphaelite Brotherhood," which was established in the autumn of 1848, are by this time tolerably numerous. Among them, here and there, occurs the name of John Lucas Tupper, and some faint suggestion of who he was and what he did. The time seems to have come at last for impressing his name more definitely upon the public memory, and for indicating—and indeed, I think, proving—that he was a man with a very considerable poetic gift of his own, and highly deserving of explicit and honourable record.

I will only cite one testimony to John Tupper's claims as a poet. In the book which I published in 1895—"Dante Gabriel Rossetti, his Family Letters, with a Memoir"—occurs a note to the following effect: "There was a little lyric of Tupper's on the Garden of Eden in ruinous decay, of which Dante Rossetti thought very highly. He compared it to Ebenezer Jones's lyric, 'When the world is burning'; and said that, had it been the writing of Edgar Poe, it would have enjoyed world-wide celebrity."¹ I include this poem in the present selection, though it was, I believe, published in a review soon after the date of Mr. Tupper's death.

¹ Vol. i., p. 151.