

**ROBIN HOOD,  
A FRAGMENT**

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Robin Hood, a fragment by Robert Southey & Caroline Southey

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**ROBERT SOUTHEY & CAROLINE SOUTHEY**

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A FRAGMENT**



"No grave befits him but the hearts of men."

BROWN, *Britannia's Pastorals*, Fifth Song.

"It was gone

Quite underground; as flowers depart  
To see their mother root when they have blown:  
Where they together  
All the hard weather,  
Dead to the world, keep house unknown."

GEORGE HERBERT.

~~LF~~  
~~S727F~~

# ROBIN HOOD:

A Fragment.

BY

THE LATE ROBERT SOUTHEY,  
AND  
CAROLINE SOUTHEY.



WITH OTHER FRAGMENTS AND POEMS

By R. S. & C. S.

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**Dedication.**

TO

**EDITH MAY WARTER.**

DAUGHTER and friend ! my husband's daughter dear,—

Thou who hast been a very Ruth to me,—

Accept (to thee inscribed how lovingly)

This wintry coronal ; pale leaves and sere,

My latest—last. Some strewn as o'er a bier,

Inwoven some with his immortal bay

Who loved to think that, with the linked lay

Fast linked, our names to many an after-year,

Memorial of our friendship, should go down

Tho' far apart we made our bed in death.—

I gather up the scantlings for that crown

Prepared ; the first and few. A withering breath

Hath scattered all beside.—God's will be done !—

And the *two* names shall live—for they are one.

CAROLINE SOUTHEY.





## PREFACE.

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NOTHING can be more fitting in the way of preface to the first part of this volume—the only part of it which needs explanation—than a letter of Mr. Southey's, which I shall transcribe accordingly.

It was addressed to me in November, 1823, very shortly after my return home from a long autumn sojourn at Keswick; Mr. Southey being then on his way southward, accompanied by his eldest daughter and two other ladies.

“ November 4, 1823.

“ We left home yesterday, and are now at Kirkby Lonsdale waiting for weather which may allow us to see the cave; for, from the time of our departure till this moment, it has not ceased raining. The same ill fortune which persecuted you at Ambleside, seems fated to attend us. The females, however, are company for each other; they have taken out their work, and the

opportunity is favourable for performing a part of mine, which is to ask you, whether one of those day-dreams to which you have given birth (a very delightful one it is) shall come to pass ?

“ I have put up among my papers the memoranda which were made many years ago, for a poem upon Robin Hood. They are easily shaped into a regular plan, and, in my judgment, a promising one. Will you form an intellectual union with me, that it may be executed ? We will keep our secret as well as Sir Walter Scott has done. Murray shall publish it, and not know the whole of the mystery, that he may make the more of it. The result will be means in abundance for a summer's residence at Keswick, and an additional motive for it, that we may form other schemes of the same nature. Am I dreaming, when I think that we may derive from this much high enjoyment, and that you may see in the prospect something that is worth living for ?

“ The secret itself would be delightful while we thought proper to keep it ; still more the spiritual union which death cannot part.

“ Now, on your side, there must be no hesitation from diffidence. You can write as easily and as well as I can plan. You are as well acquainted with forest scenery, and with whatever is required for the landscape part, as I am with the manners of the time. You will comprehend the characters as distinctly as I have conceived them, and when we meet, we will sort the parts, so as each to take the most suitable, and I will add to yours, and you shall add to mine, whatever may improve it.

“ Beaumont and Fletcher composed plays together with such