

**POETS AND DREAMERS:  
STUDIES  
AND TRANSLATIONS  
FROM THE IRISH**

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Poets and dreamers: studies and translations from the Irish by Lady Gregory

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**LADY GREGORY**

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## POETS AND DREAMERS

## BY THE SAME WRITER

**CUCHULAIN OF MUIRTHEMNE: THE STORY OF THE MEN OF THE RED BRANCH OF ULSTER, ARRANGED AND PUT INTO ENGLISH BY LADY GREGORY. PUBLISHED BY JOHN MURRAY, LONDON, 6/- NET.**

"In his interesting preface to Lady Gregory's *Cuchulain of Muirthemne*, Mr. W. B. Yeats expresses his opinion that it is the best book that has come from Ireland in recent years. In this we heartily concur. For the first time we have a thoroughly literary version of the 'Tain' and its cycle of tales, which may be compared, without the least misgiving, to Lady Charlotte Guest's version of the Mabinogion."—*The Times*.

"Lady Gregory has merited the undying gratitude of her countrymen and charmed the world by having once for all 'arranged and put into English the Story of the Red Branch of Ulster.' . . . In presenting this great cycle of bygone days to her own generation, Lady Gregory has worked on a method at once the most reverent and the most judicious, the most faithful and the most courageous. . . . And finally, she has discovered a beautiful and living speech, which, with the warrant of a fine old age echoing the lilt of ancient music, is yet a true English dialect entirely free from discordant archaisms. Her words are of to-day only, but so cunningly arranged in well-ordered sentences, that we seem listening to the very voice of Nature hymning Humanity."—Mr. R. Brimley Johnson in *Atlantic Monthly*.

"It is seldom that we read a new book with entire delight, or praise it without many silent reservations. It is by the nature of things more seldom still that we find ourselves enriched by a new and real possession, a treasure that will be ours for our lives, and a joy of many generations after us. But such a book in sober earnest is Lady Gregory's English version of *Cuchulain of Muirthemne*, and Mr. Yeats has not exaggerated in speaking of it as 'the best thing that has come out of Ireland' in his time, for, beautiful as his own work is, he has not yet equalled this fabric of the giants of old, massive and aerial, grotesque and exquisite beyond the power of a later and lesser generation—*Qualia nunc hominum producit corpora tellus*."—Mr. Henry Newbolt in *Monthly Review*.

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- ' Will you seek afar off? You surely come back at last,
- ' In things best known to you finding the best, or as good as the best;
- ' In folks nearest to you finding the sweetest, strongest, lovingest;
- ' Happiness, knowledge not in another place but this place— not for another hour but this hour.'

WALT WHITMAN.



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## POETS AND DREAMERS

### RAFTERY

#### I.

ONE winter afternoon as I sat by the fire in a ward of Gort Workhouse, I listened to two old women arguing about the merits of two rival poets they had seen and heard in their childhood.

One old woman, who was from Kilchreest, said: 'Raftery hadn't a stim of sight; and he travelled the whole nation; and he was the best poet that ever was, and the best fiddler. It was always at my father's house, opposite the big tree, that he used to stop when he was in Kilchreest. I often saw him; but I didn't take much notice of him then, being a child; it was after that I used to hear so much about him. Though he was blind, he could serve himself with his knife and fork as well as any man with his sight. I remember the way he used to cut the meat—across, like this. Callinan was nothing to him.'

The other old woman, who was from Craughwell, said: 'Callinan was a great deal better than him; and he could make songs in English as well as in