

**LEISURE MUSINGS;  
CONSISTING OF  
ORIGINAL POEMS ON  
PLEASANT SUBJECTS**

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Leisure Musings; Consisting of Original Poems on Pleasant Subjects by Silas Cryer

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**SILAS CRYER**

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Original Poems  
ON  
PLEASANT SUBJECTS.  
WITH  
Appendix and Beautiful Illustrations.

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By Silas Cryer,  
AUTHOR OF "AN ESSAY ON CHARACTER;" "THE CHRISTIAN'S  
WARFARE;" "THE EVILS OF INTemperance;" &c.

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Keightley:  
PRINTED AT THE "HERALD" OFFICE, 16, BOW ST.  
1876.

## Introduction.

I THESE Poems would introduce  
To the candid Reader's use,  
Who, I trust, will scan them o'er,  
And feel better than before.

"Leisure Musings" such as these  
Surely must the reader please;  
Since amusement all will find,  
With simplicity combin'd.

But to boast some authors' skill,  
Scarcely is the writer's will;  
They were but for pleasure penn'd,  
Or a leisure hour to spend.

So I wish this book success,  
May its humble mission bless,  
And a good companion be,  
Full of innocence and glee.

Like good seed sown in the ground,  
May its precious fruit abound;  
Or, like bread on water cast,  
Thus survive each hostile blast.

Though some may this effort spurn,  
Nor its usefulness discern,  
If the Lord my labours bless,  
I will insure this book success.

Oh dear reader, as your friend,  
I to you these Poems commend;  
May they yield you pure delight—  
As for this I try to write.

Though my poor attempts at rhyme  
Cannot stretch to aught sublime,  
In a lowly place would fill,  
And remain what I am still.

THE AUTHOR.

# LEISURE MUSINGS.

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## TO A SKYLARK.

*Written during a pleasant walk on the footpath from Bingley  
to Keighley.*

HAPPY Skylark soaring  
In the heav'ns so free ;  
Gladly God adoring,  
Blest with liberty,  
Thine is surely pleasure  
Which no cares annoy ;  
Sporting at thy leisure,  
Nought can mar thy joy.  
Pretty little creature,  
We might envy thee ;  
Gladdening now all nature  
With thy melody :  
Cheerfully while mounting  
On thy merry wing ;  
Yet no grief recounting,  
Thou dost welcome Spring.  
Thou art never weary  
In thy lofty flight ;  
And thy course ne'er dreary,  
Till quite out of sight :  
By thy music teaching  
All may happy be ;  
This brief sermon preaching—  
" Come, rejoice with me !"  
Thus thy notes so thrilling,  
Cheer the burden'd heart ;  
Grief's emotions stilling,  
Peace and joy impart ;

So may we while steering  
 Through this world of ill,  
 Leave some footprints cheering,  
 Tending heavenward still.

Thou art e'er contented  
 With thy chosen lot,  
 As 'tis ne'er lamented,  
 So thou plaest not:  
 May we, from thee learning  
 To be blithe and gay,  
 God's kind care discerning,  
 Trust in Him to-day.

Thou art never thinking  
 Of thy future lot;  
 From no sorrows shrinking,  
 So they harm thee not;  
 May we, from all sorrow,  
 Like thee, rise above;  
 Leave the coming morrow  
 To a God of love,

Yea, like thee, submitting  
 To our Maker's will,  
 Trust Him unremitting,  
 For His favour still:  
 Like thee, never grumble,  
 But, to God resign'd,  
 Bear our lot, though humble,  
 With a thankful mind.

From Him ev'ry blessing  
 Comes, but undeserv'd;  
 Things, to us distressing,  
 In His love reserved;  
 Who, in mercy caring  
 For e'en birds which fly,  
 Still our wants He's bearing  
 'Neath His watchful eye!







## A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF THE LATE

R. H. Hodgson, Esq., Solicitor, Bingley.

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*The following Memoir and Poem are published as a tribute of sincere esteem for a fellow-townsmen, whom the writer of these 'Musings' has known for more than 20 years.*

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THE subject of this Memoir being so generally known and respected, the author and publisher of this book considered it a very opportune and proper medium for giving permanent publicity to the sincere expressions of sympathy and regret which pervade the large circle of Mr. Hodgson's acquaintances; at the same it was felt to be a matter of duty and justice to the departed that it should thus appear, as a monument to the memory of so worthy and excellent a citizen as Mr. Hodgson; hence, by kind permission, this Memoir is presented to an indulgent public, in the earnest and humble hope that it may be productive of much good. But, as the reader is probably already familiar with the trying circumstances of our esteemed friend's sickness and death, we refrain from making any other than a slight allusion to them, seeing that more would be entirely superfluous, and beg most respectfully to submit the following authentic sketch for your careful perusal:—

MR. R. H. HODGSON was the second son of Mr. Thomas Hodgson, of Bingley, who died only a few months ago at an advanced age. He was born JANUARY

26th, 1825, and was consequently in his fifty-second year. He was educated at the Bingley Grammar School, then under the mastership of the Rev. Dr. Hartley, assisted by the Rev. Wm., afterwards Dr. Cartman. Richard was an apt scholar, fond of books, and scarcely less so of play: so that he was a favourite both in school and in the playground; and it would have been difficult to determine whether master or school-fellows loved him the more. Whatever may be thought of Wordsworth's aphorism that "the boy is father to the man," it is certain that Mr. Hodgson displayed the same qualities as a school boy, which afterwards distinguished him as a man: an impertable temper, a willingness to oblige, and a good humour absolutely inexhaustible. Ever ready to assist his less clever school-fellows in their difficulties, he rarely lacked opportunities of showing his conciliatory disposition. When his school career was ended, having exhibited a proclivity for the legal profession, he was "articled" to Mr. W. Wells, solicitor, Bradford, by whom he was esteemed a painstaking and trustworthy pupil. When entered on the rolls as a practicing solicitor, he became managing clerk to Messrs. Parker and Wells, solicitors, Selby. This post he held three years. He subsequently set up in business on his own account at Myrtle Place, in his native town of Bingley. On the formation of the Petty Sessional Division of Keighley in 1855 he was appointed Magistrates' Clerk, an office which he held up to the time of his lamented decease, and the onerous duties of which he discharged with honour to himself, satisfaction to the magistrates, and advantage to the town. About the same time he received this appointment, he entered into partnership with Mr. Richard Metcalfe, an old-established and highly-respectable solicitor of Keighley. After a few years Mr. Hodgson bought Mr. Metcalfe's interest in the business, and the style was changed from "Metcalfe and Hodgson" to "R. H. Hodgson." In 1859, Mr. Hodgson married Mary Harrold, second daughter of Mr. James Windram, of Leicester, by whom he leaves issue—one son, Harrold Henry, born 1861—mother and son both surviving to mourn their irreparable loss.

Mr. Hodgson was a Churchman and a Conservative.