

**THE SILENT LAND,
AND OTHER POEMS**

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The silent land, and other poems by William Blane

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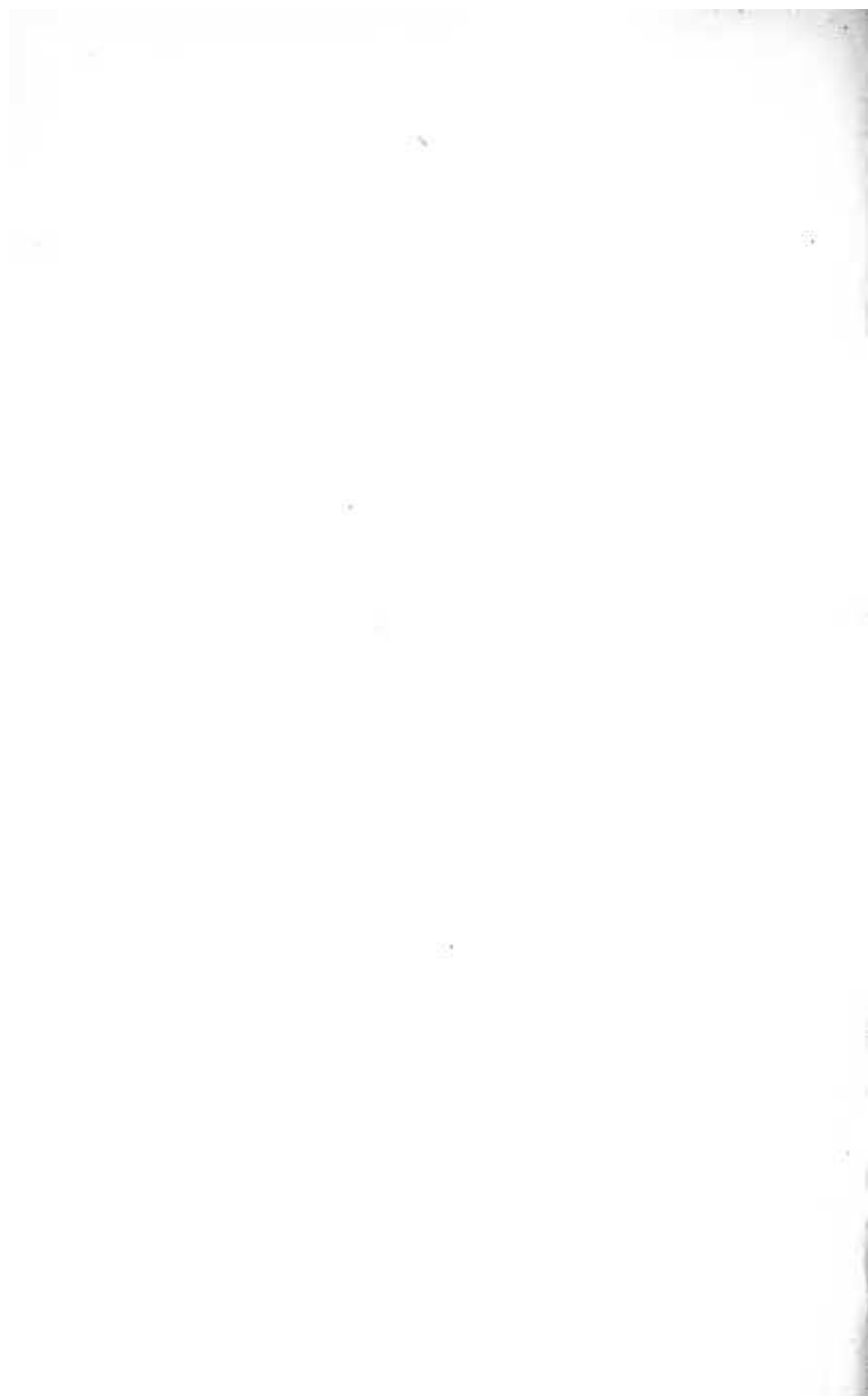
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WILLIAM BLANE

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AND OTHER POEMS**



THE SILENT LAND
AND OTHER POEMS

BY

WILLIAM BLANE

AUTHOR OF "LAYS OF LIFE AND HOPE"

LONDON
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PREFACE

WHEN, many years ago, my little volume, "Lays of Life and Hope," was published, I scarcely expected that any one beyond the limited circle of my personal friends would purchase a copy, but, to my pleasure and surprise, it soon found its way into many homes and hearts; and the sale, the publishers assure me, still continues in all parts of the English-speaking world.

Encouraged by this unlooked-for result and strengthened by the good opinions, warmly expressed, of some of my friends, I have collated the following verses, which were composed without any view to publication, and now send them forth with, if possible, more misgivings than accompanied my "Lays." They represent the leisure moments of a strenuous and busy life, over a period of more than twenty years. Some of them were made on the Diamond Fields of Kimberley, but most of them on and around the Gold Fields of Johannesburg, where it is popularly believed that men sacrifice all their better sentiments to the sordid pursuit of gold.

That this is not so is witnessed by these verses, for I received the thought and inspiration for most of them from men on these "fields," whose aims in life were as high and whose motives and sentiments were as pure as those of any men I have ever met.

To those who may recognise their own thoughts in this volume I ought perhaps to apologise, for few of the men with whom I have worked in trench and mine and office, while we watched with pride the development of a gigantic industry and the growth of a great city, ever suspected that one of their number was weaving the life story, often too sad, of one and another of them into verse.

"Some with noble deeds and great,
Some with ornaments of rhyme."

W. B.

RAND CLUB, JOHANNESBURG,
Sept. 1906.

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