

POEMS

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Poems by Isa

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ISA

POEMS

P O E M S

BY

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TO

JOHN RITCHIE, ESQ.

THESE POEMS ARE RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

THE AUTHOR

PREFACE.

THE following Poems have been written in the intervals of leisure afforded by a life of toil. The writer has followed no master in the art of song, has endeavoured to work out no poetical theory, but has simply expressed the thoughts and feelings suggested by nature and the scenes of life in the tone and language that came at their command. Yet these efforts have not been altogether purposeless. Recognising in Poetry an Art, to be cultivated with enthusiasm for its own sake, as well as for the sake of the refined enjoyment, and power of conferring such enjoyment, which its exercise bestows, the writer has aspired to render them, as far as possible, artistic efforts. Many of the pieces composing this volume have already appeared in the *Scotsman*; and the degree of approbation

there awarded to them has emboldened the Author to publish the present collection. However much she may value, if she obtains it, the approval of persons of taste and education, she will prize still more highly the appreciation of the class to which she belongs, and whose elevation and refinement she most earnestly desires.

ISA.

EDINBURGH, *February* 1856.

P O E M S.

LIVE AND LET LIVE.

WHENCE hath come that ancient saying,
Simple words and few,
All the truth of life displaying
In a single view ?
From the past a voice far reaching—
Would we better heed its teaching,
If its source we knew ?

What heart throbbed with fellow-feeling,
Who these words first spoke—
With indignant voice appealing
'Gainst the heavy yoke
That its victim slowly crusheth,
Slow but sure as life-blood gusheth
At the murderer's stroke ?