

# **BALLADS OF ROBIN HOOD**

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Ballads of Robin Hood by Leigh Hunt

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**LEIGH HUNT**

**BALLADS OF  
ROBIN HOOD**



## Ballads of Robin Hood



LEIGH HUNT AT AGE 60

# Ballads of Robin Hood

By LEIGH HUNT ✓

With Some Manuscript Reproductions



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*By Luther A. Brewer*



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## A FOREWORD

Sorting out, a few evenings back, a large amount of Leigh Hunt manuscript acquired at auction, and endeavoring to place it in first editions of the author in my possession, I was delighted to find that I had several pages of a draft of some of the verses of his *Ballads of Robin Hood*.

These pages are reproduced in this reprint.

They are interesting, not only as specimens of the hand-writing of Hunt, but as showing some differences between them as printed and as here written.

The initial stanza in the book does not bear any relation to the manuscript copy except in the thought, which is the same in the two versions.

Hunt tells us that these ballads were founded on the popular assumption that the good outlaw Robin Hood, "the gentlest of thieves," was of "gentle blood." "It is a very good and very probable assumption," he continues, "considering how the Saxon gentry in his time were robbed of their estates by their Norman tyrants; and it ought never to be more popular than now, when to feel for the suffering of all classes, and endeavour to advance the whole human race, is a mark of the highest education,

that of the Sovereign included. The author adopted the metrical license of the old ballads while writing on this subject, but it was not his object to confine himself to their manner."

In view of the fact that a million dollars or more is now being expended by a prominent cinema actor in the production of a picture founded on this story, I feel that this reprint, embellished by Hunt's autograph copy of more than twenty of the stanzas, will prove of interest to the few for whom this publication is intended.

LUTHER A. BREWER

Cedar Rapids Iowa

July 14 1922

## BALLADS OF ROBIN HOOD

(For children)

### ROBIN HOOD A CHILD

It was the pleasant season yet,  
When the stones at cottage doors  
Dry quickly while the roads are wet,  
After the silver showers.

The green leaves they look'd greener still,  
And the thrush, renewing his tune,  
Shook a loud note from his gladsome bill  
Into the bright blue noon.

Robin Hood's mother look'd out, and said,  
"It were a shame and a sin,  
For fear of getting a wet head,  
To keep such a day within,  
Nor welcome up from his sick bed  
Your uncle Gamelyn."

And Robin leap'd for mirth and glee,  
And so they quit the door,  
And "Mother, I'm your dog," quoth he,  
And scamper'd on before.