

POEMS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649382170

Poems by Alfred Noyes & Hamilton W. Mabie

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ALFRED NOYES & HAMILTON W. MABIE

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P O E M S

BY

ALFRED NOYES

*WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
HAMILTON W. MABIE*

New York

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

LONDON: MACMILLAN & CO., LTD.

1918

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Set up and electrotyped. Published October, 1906. Reprinted
March, 1908; September, 1909; February, 1911; August, 1912;
April, 1913; June, December, 1913; April, 1914; March, 1915;
February, November, 1916; October, 1917.

Norwood Press
J. S. Cushing Co. — Berwick & Smith Co.
Norwood, Mass., U.S.A.

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INTRODUCTION

It will interest American readers to know that Mr. Noyes was born on the sixteenth day of September, 1880, and published his first poem in the weekly edition of the *London Times* while in residence at Exeter College, Oxford. That he had other than literary interests is evidenced by the fact that he rowed in the college eight for three years. After leaving college he contributed poems to leading English periodicals, including the *Spectator*, *Bookman*, *Outlook*, and *Speaker*; while most of his longer pieces found places in what Poe called "the most famous magazine in Europe," *Blackwood's*.

Five volumes of verse contain Mr. Noyes's published work to this time. All these books

bear London imprints, and three are of the slender proportions which suggest the young poet modestly seeking his own in the mob of modern readers. "The Loom of Years" appeared in 1902, "The Flower of Old Japan" in 1903, "Poems" in 1904, and "The Forest of Wild Thyme" in 1905, "Drake: an English Epic" in 1906. Of these books of verse two are devoted to lyrics on a wide range of themes, while in "The Flower of Old Japan" and "The Forest of Wild Thyme" the poet escapes the

"tyranny of fact
To hunt the fairy gleam."

These excursions into fairy-land bear the evidence of the poet's grace and gift in their freedom, spontaneity, joyousness. They open new play-grounds in this laborious modern world, and betray the touch of a hand pos-

sessed not only of the skill of craftsmanship but of imagination: —

“Yet how can a child of the night
Brighten the light of the sun?
How can he add a delight
To the dances that never are done?”

“Ah, what if he struggles to turn
Once more to the sweet old skies
With praise and praise, from the fetters that burn
To the God that brightened your eyes.”

Mr. Noyes is already well known in England, and the quality of his work has awakened the hope that he is to enrich the poetry of the day with new ventures of insight and art. The poems collected in this volume represent his oldest and his latest work; many are presented for the first time, others have been selected from “*The Loom of Years*” and “*Poems*.” Lack of space has made it impossible in this volume to present Mr. Noyes's more elaborate