POEMS: AN OFFERING TO LANCASHIRE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649760176

Poems: an offering to Lancashire by Isa Craig Knox & Christina Georgina Rossetti

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ISA CRAIG KNOX & CHRISTINA GEORGINA ROSSETTI

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PRINTED AND PUBLISHED FOR THE ART EXHIBITION FOR THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN THE COTTON DISTRICTS.

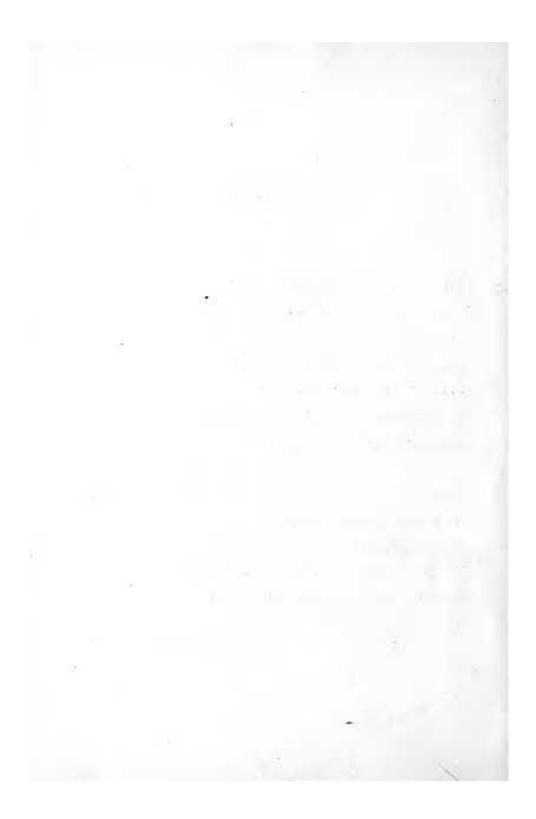


LONDON: EMILY FAITHFULL, Printer and Publisher in Ordinary to Her Majesty, VICTORIA PRESS, 834, FARRINGDON STREET, E.C. 1863.

PREFACE.

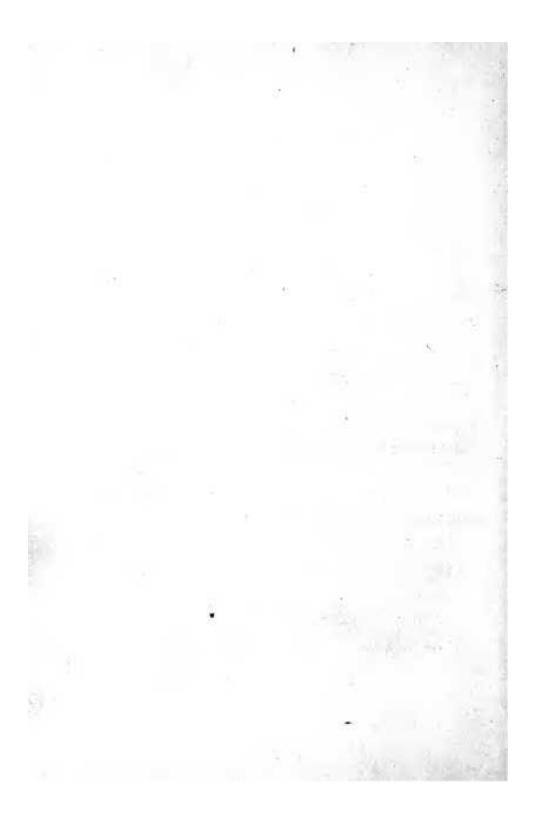
THE task of seeing this little volume through the press has been an easy and pleasant one. Most of the contributions have been written specially and many more might have been added but for the wish that the book should appear at Christmas, and the brief time consequently allowed for its preparation. Miss Faithfull undertook to print and publish a thousand copies free of expense, the compositors of the Victoria Press volunteering their services, and Messrs. Richard Herring & Co. furnishing the paper gratuitously, so that the proceeds of the sale will be devoted to the object to which the volume is dedicated.

ISA CRAIG.



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SONNET.

WHAT is the work, the duty of the hour? THIS, surely, chief:—to turn these ills to good: Out of sour poison draw the wholesome food; Chasing ill thoughts that sever rich and poor. Oh! could we feel that every open'd door Made way to HEARTS! drove out the spectral brood Of dark distrustings—so that now we stood At one in spirit—One for evermore! Is this too much? yet register the vow, Ye faithful Labourers! not to lose your hold; The bars once broken, still to keep them so; Then the fresh page in Life's great book unrolled, With eyes made clear to read it, shall repay With tenfold good the sorrow of to-day.

EMILY TAYLOR.

в

A ROYAL PRINCESS.

I, a princess, king-descended, stuck with jewels, gilded, dressed,

Would rather be a peasant with her baby at her breast, For all I shine so like the sun, and am purple like the west.

Two and two my guards behind, two and two before, Two and two on either hand, they guard me evermore; Me, poor dove that must not coo—eagle that must not soar.

All my fountains cast up perfumes, all my gardens grow Scented woods and foreign spices, with all flowers in blow That are costly, out of season as the seasons go.

All my walls are lost in mirrors whereupon I trace Self to right hand, self to left hand, self in every place, Selfsame solitary figure, selfsame seeking face.

Then I have an ivory chair high to sit upon, Almost like my Father's chair, which is an ivory throne: There I sit uplift and upright, there I sit alone.