

**SELECTIONS FROM
THE POETICAL WORKS
OF HEINRICH HEINE**

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Selections from the Poetical Works of Heinrich Heine by Heinrich Heine

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Translated into English.

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1878.



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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE first duty of any translator of Heine's verse is to admit the impossibility of doing justice to the incomparable grace and charm of his style. Of all poets he is perhaps the most untranslatable, and yet, by a strange perversity of fate, which he himself would have been the first to appreciate, the experiment is found to have a peculiar fascination not easy to resist. With such a full confession, it will be understood that the following translations are put forward under no exaggerated sense of their value. They have been made out of love for the original, and they are published in the hope that they may be found not altogether unacceptable to those to whom the

original is unknown. Others, again, who are familiar with the works from which these different pieces have been selected, will be ready to acknowledge that the translator has not wilfully courted failure. Some care has been taken to choose the least impossible of the shorter poems, and at the same time to give the reader an impression of the variety of the poet's style.

July, 1878.

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