

**LAYS OF MIDDLE
AGE: AND
OTHER POEMS**

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Lays of middle age: and other poems by James Hedderwick

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JAMES HEDDERWICK

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OTHER POEMS**

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BY

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PREFACE.

THE aspect of moral life, like the face of nature, is subject to perspective laws: the scene changes with the position of the observer. While Youth is mounting the sunny side of the hill, Middle Life stands at the apex, and Age is descending among the shadows beyond. To each belongs a different sphere of view, with its appropriate objects of incident and reflection.

Such is the experience of every man who lives to realise the facts of existence; and the title of the following 'LAYS,' together with something of their tendency, is thus explained. Dealing with many themes, and briefly with each, it was still the Author's purpose that

they should possess a certain idiosyncrasy of character. They were designed, in short, as a group of musings, growing out of casual emotions, or suggested by passing events, but having more or less affinity with the mind of Middle Age.

The 'MISCELLANEOUS' portion of the Volume comprises a variety of Pieces written during recent years, with the addition of a small selection (revised) from Poems published by the Author at an earlier period of his life. Several of these having been long in circulation in this country and America, generally in an anonymous form, he has felt justified in assigning them a place here.

DECEMBER, 1858.

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