

**DEVONSHIRE & OTHER ORIGINAL
POEMS; WITH SOME
ACCOUNT OF ANCIENT
CUSTOMS, SUPERSTITIONS, AND
TRADITIONS**

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Devonshire & Other Original Poems; With Some Account of Ancient Customs, Superstitions,
and Traditions by Elias Tozer

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ELIAS TOZER

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Devonshire & other Original

POEMS;

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AND

TRADITIONS.

BY ELIAS TOZER,

Editor, &c., of "Devon Weekly Times" and "Evening Express."

EXETER:

Printed and Published at the Office of the *Devon Weekly Times*, &c.
226, High Street. May be had of all Booksellers.

1873.

An interest of much sadness attaches to this publication. Undertaken by the Author in what was believed to be the convalescent moments of a long illness, its compilation was nearly ended when his hand and brain failed, and after a brief interval were stilled for ever.

December, 1878.

PREFACE.

The contents of this volume, from the pen of "Tickler," (who now drops his *nom de plume*, and signs his own proper name,) have, for the most part, appeared from time to time in the columns of the *Devon Weekly Times* and *Evening Express*. The poems are simple, and doubtless defective enough; but they are expressions of sincere homage and reverence paid to Nature, and to her beautiful and varied manifestations in his dearly-loved native county. Moreover, they are the earnest expressions of principles in which the writer has for many years ardently believed.

As to the Devonshire Superstitions and Traditions, they are by no means so complete as they would have been if the writer could have given more time for research. The Traditions of the old county deserve the attention of one who could devote a great deal of leisure, collecting them from various scattered sources, and who is actuated by the feeling that, in view of the advancement of education and knowledge, there are very old things worth preserving and handing down to posterity as interesting and instructive relics of the Past.

This little work has been published at the earnest solicitation of friends, and the reader must kindly take it for what it is worth.

ELIAS TOZER.

DEDICATION.

I DEDICATE THIS LITTLE BOOK
TO MY WIFE, WHO HAS
LOYALLY SHARED WITH ME MANY HEAVY GRIEFS,
AND PARTICIPATED IN
WHATEVER JOYS HAVE BEEN VOUCHSAFED TO US,
THROUGH MORE THAN
A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OF WEDDED LIFE.

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ERRATUM.

Page 39, 5th verse, 2nd line, read "shining" for "shing."

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MORNING.

SOFTLY breaks the morning light
O'er the peaceful, slumb'ring earth,
Banishing the gloom of night,
Waking all things into mirth.

Rosy beams illumine the hills,
Then, descending, valleys grow ;
Now no cloud of darkness fills
Any spot of earth below.

Thus the Truth, in silent power,
Dawns upon the human brain,
Touching first the heights that tower,
Then, expanding, floods the plain.

Mental haights all bath'd in Love,
Earnest hearts, that will not rest,
Until vale and darken'd grove
Shine, with God's bright glory blest.

O great Source of every Good,
Scatter evil, falsehood, strife ;
Let thy spirit o'er us brood,
Fill the world with light and life.