

**VERSES OF A
PROSE-WRITER**

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Verses of a Prose-Writer by James Ashcroft Noble

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JAMES ASHCROFT NOBLE

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BY
JAMES ASHCROFT NOBLE

AUTHOR OF
'THE PELICAN PAPERS,' 'MORALITY IN ENGLISH FICTION,' ETC. ETC.

EDINBURGH: DAVID DOUGLAS

1887

TO MY WIFE

*Of the poor treasure in my little store
For thee, dear wife, the rarest and the best
I fain would choose; but Love can give no more
Than Love possesses, therefore I will rest
Content in the sweet thought that eyes of thine,
Scanning these pages tenderly, may find
Something to prize, if but because 'tis mine—
To love, for hint of what remains behind.*

J. A. N.

PREFATORY NOTE

SOME of the following poems appeared in a little book of mine which has long been out of print ; others have been published in various sonnet anthologies ; and a few are reprinted from periodicals ; but the greatest number appear for the first time in this volume. I may add that the ballad entitled "The Red Thread of Honour" had been written and printed long before I discovered that it had been anticipated by a fine poem, identical in subject and similar in treatment, from the pen of Sir Francis Doyle. That two writers, working independently of each other, should have been attracted by such

a subject is not surprising; and I mention the matter only to vindicate myself beforehand from a possible, and, at first sight, not unreasonable charge of plagiarism.

J. A. N.

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