

**ARACHNIA:
OCCASIONAL
VERSES**

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Arachnia: Occasional Verses by James Robertson

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JAMES ROBERTSON

**ARACHNIA:
OCCASIONAL
VERSES**

ARACHNIA, OCCASIONAL VERSES
BY JAMES ROBERTSON
FORMERLY HEADMASTER OF
HAILEYBURY COLLEGE

He hath shown thee, O man, what is good.

Micah.

All men live by truth, and stand in need of
expression.

Emerson.

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PREFACE

THE writer of the verses in this volume died on October 19, 1903, in his sixty-eighth year. His friends had long since urged him to make such a collection, and the poems placed here as introductory show that at one time he had thoughts of complying.

It was characteristic of him to label the contents of his portfolio thus:—“*graviora quaedam,—stomachi, jecoris torpidi, cordis suppositicii, cordis veri,—variola adumbrata,—leviore plectro,* nonsense to children, songs, etc.,—rag-remnants of the teens.”

A roughly chronological order has been kept, but overlapping was here and there unavoidable: dates have therefore only been added where it seemed of advantage. There are here presented Early Poems; Poems of Loneliness, of Fancy, of Reflection: *Rugbeiana, Harroviana, Haileyburiana*: then Songs of Pilgrimage and of the Mountains: lastly, Verses to Children, Topical Verses, and Poems of the later years.

The second part of the volume consists of translations, mostly from the French and German. Several have appeared in the *Journal of Education*; one in the *Academy*. The renderings of German *Volkslieder* were for the most part due to the exhortation of a lover of music, anxious to have versions that could be sung.

A translation in blank verse of the First Book of Lucan might yet be made public to scholars.

Two or three old friends have done much to help by advice. There has been some encouragement to hope that the book will have interest for not a few readers, to whom the writer was personally unknown; but it must make its first appeal to those who knew something of the mind and character which found occasional expression in these poems. It is believed that such will accord a welcome to the best memorial that can now be raised.

A. J. R.

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