

FATHER TABB, HIS LIFE AND WORK

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649006199

Father Tabb, his life and work by Jennie Masters Tabb

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JENNIE MASTERS TABB

**FATHER TABB, HIS
LIFE AND WORK**

THE UNIVERSITY
OF MICHIGAN



FATHER TABB

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

FATHER TABB

His Life and Work

A Memorial By
HIS NEICE
JENNIE MASTERS TABB

Introduction By
DR. CHARLES ALPHONSO SMITH
Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland

SECOND EDITION



1922
THE STRATFORD COMPANY, Publishers
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

THE ALPINE PRESS
BOSTON, MASS.

Copyright, 1922

Boston, Mass.

The STRATFORD CO., Publishers

The Alpine Press, Boston, Mass., U. S. A.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

TO THE MEMORY OF MY FATHER
WILLIAM BARKSDALE TABB



*The Elder Brother, under whose inspiration,
guidance and instruction*
JOHN BANNISTER TABB
Began his Literary Career

2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026
2027
2028
2029
2030

INTRODUCTION

the germ, was the special task and the unique privilege of his life.

His work has been called that of a lapidary, but there is a difference. The products of the lapidary's skill have a certain hard finality. Their boundary and content are fixed and unyielding. The lapidary's work, like the multiplication table, means the same to you and to me, to this age and to coming ages. But Father Tabb's best quatrains are not mere quests for the *mot juste*, the one inevitable word or set of words. The boundaries that he puts about his thoughts are definite but elastic. His quatrains are emancipations rather than confinements of thought. They are achievements not merely in condensation but in condensation *plus* illumination. There is an aureole of suggestiveness about them that we do not find, for example, in the lines of Pope, though in the accepted sense Pope was the greatest master of epigram that the English race has produced.

Ring one of Pope's coins on the table and compare its resonance with that of these lines:

“O little bird, I'd be
A poet like to thee;
Singing my native song,
Short to the ear, but long
To love and memory.”

There is perfection of phrasing here but no funereal finality. The thought receives a certain urge and élan

INTRODUCTION

in the very moment of its embodiment. Father Tabb's appeal, therefore, evinces its distinctive excellence in its varying challenge to varying personalities. The lines called *Discrepancy*—

“One dream the bird and blossoms dreamed
Of Love, the whole night long;
Yet twain its revelation seemed,
In fragrance and in song”

will appeal differently to the scientist, the sociologist, the literateur, the historian; but, however varying, the compression and glow of the thought are such that the appeal will be none the less vital, direct, and inescapable.

Browning enters Father Tabb's realm when he writes:

“All the breath and the bloom of the year in
the bag of one bee:
All the wonder and wealth of the mine in
the heart of one gem:
In the core of one pearl all the shade
and the shine of the sea.”

These great lines form a sort of text to Father Tabb's life work. They mark out his goal. But what the English poet has announced as a principle the American poet has developed and illustrated in stanzas of unexampled beauty and fidelity.

The present volume will, I am sure, add appreciably to the range of Father Tabb's service, for it is in a