

**OCCASIONAL
THOUGHTS IN VERSE.
TOGETHER WITH MEMOIR**

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Occasional Thoughts in Verse. Together with Memoir by A. B. Taylor

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A. B. TAYLOR

**OCCASIONAL
THOUGHTS IN VERSE.
TOGETHER WITH MEMOIR**

OCCASIONAL THOUGHTS

IN VERSE,

BY THE LATE A. B. TAYLOR,

FOR THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS

MINISTER OF THE PARTICULAR BAPTIST CHAPEL,
ROCHDALE ROAD, MANCHESTER.

TOGETHER WITH

M E M O I R .

"Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my
decease to have these things always in remembrance."—
2 PETER I. 15.

MANCHESTER:

BROOK & CHRYSAL, 11, MARKET STREET.
ROCHDALE ROAD SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARY.

LONDON:

JOHN GADSBY, 17, BOUVERIE STREET, E.C.

1887.

P R E F A C E .

NO doubt it was our author's intention to publish his writings in verse during his lifetime. We can give no exact reason for the delay, but the indecision has been the cause of their appearing at this time. Some weeks back I agreed, at Mr. Taylor's request, to assist him in getting out this book. My share was to be the revision and the business of the transaction. As time went on, it was soon manifest that our author would not be able to do much, as infirmity was creeping upon him. When he found that he could not proceed, he asked me to go on alone, and he would intrust the undertaking to my hands. He, however, then purposed to write his Preface, and in part told me what he should say. Later on, it was clear that that intention could not be carried out, and in telling me that he should have to abandon his purpose, he remarked that I knew how to do it, meaning that I had heard some of his mind. The reader will, I trust, extend to me some indulgence, as it will be clear that my task is not an easy one.

It is not given to many the ability to convey their minds in clear and choice expression, nor is it the gift of the multitude to be able to use plain speech

which is at once understood when spoken. Thus it must be admitted that he who can express his mind clearly is possessed of some gift, and he who can express himself elegantly has a greater gift, but the man who can give noble thoughts their birth in poetic language, or render his humour in rhyme, it will be conceded that such an one has an excellent gift. We must leave the reader to form his own judgment of this book, at the same time telling him that these pieces are not offered to the world for severe criticism, but are produced more in the spirit of desiring to leave some memento of a long life, in which were many experiences of men and things, and much exercise of mind and heart.

Our author, feeling that the Muses had not overlooked him in their last will and testament, was mindful to show gratitude, by putting out his talent to the "exchangers."

The use of poetic and imaginative writing is of the most ancient date, and is not confined to any one line of things. Moses wrote his song; Job also employed the most forcible and poetic style, even using the form of sarcasm and irony, such as when he said, "No doubt but ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you." David is called the sweet singer of Israel, and even the bitterness of his soul is vented in the most sublime words. Solomon was gifted to write the great song of the Church, and the prophets told their tale in some of the most forcible language. It

may be said that the great Apostle told us that he came not with excellency of speech or wisdom, but had used great plainness of speech, and by these words had discouraged the use of fanciful writing. It might soon be answered here that he meant in declaring the great truths of the Gospel, we were not, as Peter says, to follow cunningly devised fables, but like the Preacher of old, to seek out acceptable words.

Coming down to lower things, might it not be said, the world at large has had much talent employed in the perpetuating of mundane things, and even of things grossly wicked? Need there be any apology then given for our author when it seemed good to him to leave to the world some of his thoughts, shewing through the medium of poesy much of the character of the man, and what he had passed through?

Most of our readers, we venture to think, will appreciate those pieces which give expression to faith and sentiment, and in reading over the lighter pieces, they will also readily discern the natural character of the writer. Now, if there should be any disposition to find fault with the promiscuous disposing of the pieces, I would just say that you do not find fault with me, but with the author, whose will it was that the pieces should be mingled together.

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