

**A BOOK OF OLD ENGLISH  
BALLADS, WITH  
AN ACCOMPANIMENT OF  
DECORATIVE DRAWINGS**

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A book of old English ballads, with an accompaniment of decorative drawings by George Wharton Edwards

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**GEORGE WHARTON EDWARDS**

**A BOOK OF OLD ENGLISH  
BALLADS, WITH  
AN ACCOMPANIMENT OF  
DECORATIVE DRAWINGS**





These Drawings are affectionately  
Inscribed to  
R and F A  
by  
G. W. E.

•The  Co. •

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A Book  
of  
Old English  
BALLADS

with an  
Accompaniment  
of  
Decorative  
Drawings  
by

George

Wharton Edwards:

And an Introduction by

Hamilton W. Mabie

New York

The Macmillan Company



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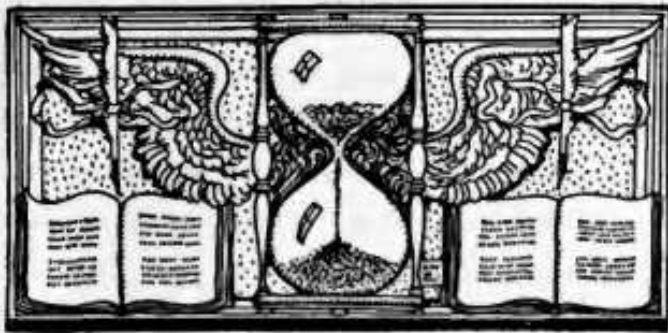


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## Introduction

*Goethe, who saw so many things with such clearness of vision, brought out the charm of the popular ballad for readers of a later day in his remark that the value of these songs of the people is to be found in the fact that their motives are drawn directly from nature; and he added, that in the art of saying things compactly, uneducated men have greater skill than those who are educated. It is certainly true that no kind of verse is so completely out of the atmosphere of modern writing as the popular ballad. No other form of verse has, therefore, in so great a degree, the charm of freshness. In material, treatment, and spirit, these ballads are set in sharp contrast with the poetry of*