

**WORDSWORTH'S
GRAVE, AND
OTHER POEMS**

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Wordsworth's Grave, And Other Poems by William Watson

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WILLIAM WATSON

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GRASMERE CHURCHYARD.

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and other *Poems*

by

WILLIAM WATSON

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SERIES**

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Prefatory Note.



FOR kind permission to reprint "Wordsworth's Grave," "Ver Tenebrosum," and "England to Ireland," my thanks are due to the Editors of the *National Review* and the *Spectator*.

I have omitted from "Ver Tenebrosum" one sonnet which seemed coloured by party passion to its distinct detriment as poetry. There may possibly be others which lay themselves open to the same charge, but I have found it difficult to exclude them without disturbing the general coherence of the body of verse to which they belong.

Twenty "Epigrams" are transferred to these pages from a former volume of mine, which, from the circumstance of its merely provincial publication, and the fact of its having found few readers, I have thought a legitimate source to lay under contribution.

W. W.

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TO
JAMES BROMLEY,
OF
Latbom, Lancashire.

ERE vandal lords with lust of gold accurst
Deface each hallowed hillside we revere—
Ere cities in their million-throated thirst
Menace each sacred mere—
Let us give thanks because one nook hath
been
Unflooded yet by desecration's wave,
The little churchyard in the valley green
That holds our Wordsworth's grave.

'Twas there I plucked these elegiac blooms,
There where he rests 'mid comrades fit and
few,
And thence I bring this growth of classic
tombs,
An offering, friend, to you—
You who have loved like me his simple
themes,
Loved his sincere large accent nobly plain,
And loved the land whose mountains and
whose streams
Are lovelier for his strain.

It may be that his manly chant, beside
More dainty numbers, seems a rustic tune ;
It may be, thought has broadened since he
died

Upon the century's noon ;

It may be that we can no longer share
The faith which from his fathers he re-
ceived ;

It may be that our doom is to despair
Where he with joy believed ;—

Enough that there is none since risen who
sings

A song so gotten of the immediate soul,
So instant from the vital fount of things
Which is our source and goal ;
And though at touch of later hands there float
More artful tones than from his lyre he
drew,

Ages may pass ere trills another note
So sweet, so great, so true.

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