THE LEGEND OF SAINT VITALIS AND OTHER POEMS

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The Legend of Saint Vitalis And Other Poems by Alfred J. Church

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ALFRED J. CHURCH

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Orford

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LEGEND OF SAINT VITALIS

AND OTHER POEMS

. BY

ALFRED J. CHURCH, M.A.

AUTHOR OF 'STORIES PROM HOMER,' ETC.

Orford

B. H. BLACKWELL, BROAD STREET

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PREFACE.

THESE few verses are all that I have been able to do towards realizing one of the dreams of my life, the winning a place, though it were but the 'lowest room,' among English poets. They have been written at rare intervals during a period of nearly forty years; and I cannot now expect the health, the spirits, or the leisure by which I might accomplish more. My excuse for collecting them is the hope that among them may possibly be found one or two worthy to live.

Most of the pieces have been published in the Spectator, and I thank my kind friends, the proprietors of that journal, for the permission to reprint them. "The Sea of Galilee" obtained the "Prize for a Poem on a Sacred Subject" at Oxford in 1883. The last two stanzas have been repeated and expanded in "A Christmas Hope." I should have omitted them but that it seemed right to print a prize poem substantially as it stood when it was submitted to the judges. The translation of "Could we forget the widowed hour" from In Memoriam appeared in a volume entitled Horae Tennysonianae which I had the honour of editing. It is now out of print, thanks, not to any urgent demand from the public, but to a fire which consumed the edition. The translation was praised by Charles Stuart Calverley, and this is my reason for reprinting it.

A. C.

HADLEY, Dec. 27, 1886.



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