BALLADS AND OTHER POEMS: ORIGINAL AND TRANSLATED

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Ballads and Other Poems: Original and Translated by Edmund Head

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EDMUND HEAD

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ORIGINAL AND TRANSLATED.

BY THE LATE

RIGHT HON. SIR EDMUND HEAD, BART., K.C.B.

SMITH, ELDER AND CO., LONDON. 1868.

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PREFACE.

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SIR EDMUND HEAD, shortly before his death, had collected these poems and translations (which had appeared from time to time in *Fraser's Magazine*) with a view to their being reprinted for private distribution amongst his friends. Those to whom the disposal of them has devolved have thought it better to republish them than to reprint them privately, because the circle of his friends and of those who take a friendly interest in dwelling upon all that he was and all that he did, is a very wide circle, and it would be difficult perhaps for any one to know where it ends, so as to include in a private distribution all whom he would himself have wished to be included, and all to whom any record of his mind, even in its lighter and more excursive operations, or any traces of his steps on earth, will have a

Preface.

value. It is for this memorial value that they are thus preserved; not certainly as representing more than one or two of the bye-paths into which he occasionally betook himself when the main business and purposes of his life permitted : for—though loving literature with an exceeding love, and knowing the literature of divers times and countries with the knowledge to which only love can lead, and with an extent of knowledge to which few, even through love, have found their way—he gave his life, after his first youth, to the public service at home and abroad, and such productions as these were merely the fruits of occasional retirement into literature when resting from public labours.

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FREE TRANSLATION OF THE LAST ELEGY OF PROPERTIUS.

[B. v., EL. 11.]

[Supposed to be addressed by Cornelia, a Roman matron, to her husband and children after her death. Certain lines relating to mythology, and a few others, are omitted.]

I.

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I

VEX not the grave with tears : its shadows deep

Repulse the mourner and exclude the day :

The bourne is passed : cease, Paulus, cease to weep;

A gate of adamant hath barr'd the way.