

SONGS OF BRITAIN

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Songs of Britain by Lewis Morris

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BY

LEWIS MORRIS

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1887

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P R E F A C E .

THE present volume comes so quickly after the writer's tragedy, "Gycia," published last year, that it may be well to say that the earlier poem was written as far back as the end of the year 1884.

Of the three legends from Wild Wales contained in this volume, the first is derived partly from the "Mabinogion," partly from a quasi-historical tradition. The two others follow as nearly as may be the oral traditions collected by the writer's friend, Professor Rhys, from all parts of Wales, and reproduced by him in the pages of the *Cymmrodorion*

Society's Journal. It should be understood that "The Physicians of Myddfai" is a poem rather than a metrical exercise, and that the writer is well aware that, without considerable indulgence in the matter of metre, English elegiac verse must be practically impossible.

PENBRYN, *April, 1887.*

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
ON A THRUSH SINGING IN AUTUMN	1
IN A COUNTRY CHURCH	5
IN SPRING-TIDE	13
IN AUTUMN	15
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	17
AN ENGLISH IDYLL	25
ANIMA MUNDI	29
IN PEMBROKESHIRE, 1886	31
EASTER-TIDE	37
GHOSTS	43
SONG	46
FROM WILD WALES:	
I. LLYN Y MORWYNION... ..	48
II. THE PHYSICIANS OF MYDDFAI	59
III. THE CURSE OF PANTANNAS	102