THE TEMPERANCE: AND OTHER POEMS OF THE LATE HENRY ANDERTON, OF WALTON-LE-DALE, NEAR PRESTON, WITH A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE

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The Temperance: And Other Poems of the Late Henry Anderton, of Walton-Le-Dale, near Preston, with a Sketch of His Life by Henry Anderton & Edward Grubb

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HENRY ANDERTON & EDWARD GRUBB

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THE

TEMPERANCE

AND OTHER

POEMS

OF THE LATE

HENRY ANDERTON,

OF WALTON-LE-DALE, NEAR PRESTON,

WITH A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE,

BY HIS FRIEND AND FELLOW-LABOURER,

EDWARD GRUBB.

"Praise famous men, such as by their counsels, and knowledge of learning were meet for the people,—and were wise and eloquent in their instructions, and such as found out musical tunes, and recited verses in writing."—ECCLESIASTICUS xliv. v. 1 and *seq.*

"A verse may find him who a sermon flies,
And turn delight into a sacrifice."

HERBERT.

PRESTON:
PRINTED BY W. AND J. DOBSON, FISHERGATE.
1863.

TO JOHN GUEST, ESQUIRE,

OF MOORGATE GRANGE, ROTHERHAM,

THE FAITHFUL PATRIOT AND STEADY FRIEND

OF

CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM,

WHOSE EXERTIONS TO CONSOLIDATE THE BASIS AND

EXTEND THE BLESSINGS OF THE TEMPERANCE REFORMATION

BY AN EFFICIENT

ADMINISTRATION AND ENLIGHTENED ADVOCACY,

AND SO TO IMPROVE THE

CONDITION AND ELEVATE THE CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE,

ENCOURAGE THE PHILANTHROPIST TO ANTICIPATE

FROM FUTURE EXERTIONS MORE EXTENSIVE GOOD,

THIS

COLLECTION OF THE POEMS

OF

THE LATE HENRY ANDERTON,

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE

FIRST TEMPERANCE REFORMERS, IS INSCRIBED

BY HIS FAITHFUL

AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE EDITOR.

PREFACE.

I cannot allow this work to pass from my hands without a brief explanation of the circumstances which induced me to edit and incur the responsibilities of its publication.

A few weeks before his last illness, I saw Mr. Anderton; he was then, to all appearance, in his usual state of health; on the 17th of October, I heard by the merest chance that he was dead. At that time I was living in the quiet little village of Acton, near Nantwich, where intelligence of even more exciting events than the death of an individual seldom reached me till it had ceased to interest other people. I anxiously looked out for the temperance publications, hoping to find some honorable mention of Mr. Anderton's early labours. But I was surprised when I found that the conductors of the very publications which professed to be the organs of the movement, allowed such a circumstance as the sudden and unexpected removal from this life of one of the most gifted men who ever espoused their cause to pass without any particular notice. As one of his old friends I shared the desire of many that something should be done to preserve the memory of his excellent deeds and great talents.

During the whole time of my private visits to him, after his retirement from the platform, I never failed to urge him to prepare his speeches and poems for publication, and though he never positively refused to agree to my proposal, he always left the subject for future consideration. I knew that his speeches had been fully written out before delivery in the Cockpit (the original Preston Temperance Hall), and also that in their original composition he had attempted to construct and finish the several parts according to the precepts of the great masters of ancient eloquence. He rested his claims to distinction upon his speeches; his poems cost him no labour, and were merely employed to assist a certain portion of his hearers to retain the leading features of his arguments in a more familiar style.

Not having received any particulars of his illness or death in a direct way, I wrote to his brother for information, and to ascertain whether he, or any one else, had taken steps to bring his speeches and poems before the Temperance friends, for whose instruction and amusement they had been composed. The matter appeared to me so important, that I urged him to give the subject immediate attention. There were some special reasons at the time why his friends should have acted upon my suggestion, and these I did not fail to point out. The peculiarity of his genius, vast as was the popular appreciation of it, was a riddle that could not be solved without his speeches, and I was anxious to see them in print, that we might be in a fit position to determine "What constitutes an oration?" Knowing these to be of great value as to their literary character, I offered my assistance and co-operation to carry out to the fullest any wish the family or friends might have in the matter. To my letter his brother wrote as

follows :—" I fear much that Henry did not take care of any of his works. So far as I can judge it will be impossible to collect anything that would fill a volume."

Disappointed but not discouraged at this unexpected intelligence, I began to rely upon my own resources, and, after retracing the memory of early times, put myself into correspondence with such of our friends as I could think likely to possess copies of what he had written. Every one to whom I had written evinced their willingness to entrust all their little treasures to my keeping. The *Preston Chronicle* and the *Alliance Weekly News* rendered very valuable assistance in this search. Many of the original poems in this work have been obtained, through the publicity of the two papers named above from the United States, Canada, and Australia. The interval between the several arrivals has been great, indeed, one has come to hand whilst I have been writing this explanation. It now only remains for me to say to those friends who have shown their readiness to assist me by giving up the copies in their possession, that I have done my best to return the obligation by a well-printed and handsome volume. They will now clearly comprehend the difficulties which precluded the appearance of the work at an earlier date, and that the delay, which was unavoidable, has been an advantage. They will be able to see also that my offer to assist others forced upon me the alternative either to disappoint those who were anxious the poems should appear, or to take the responsibility of publishing them at my own risk.

I may remark, further, that many of the poems mentioned in the sketch of his life, are omitted in this collection. It is not necessary