THE IMMORTALS AND OTHER POEMS

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The Immortals and Other Poems by R. Warwick Bond

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By R. WARWICK BOND

LONDON

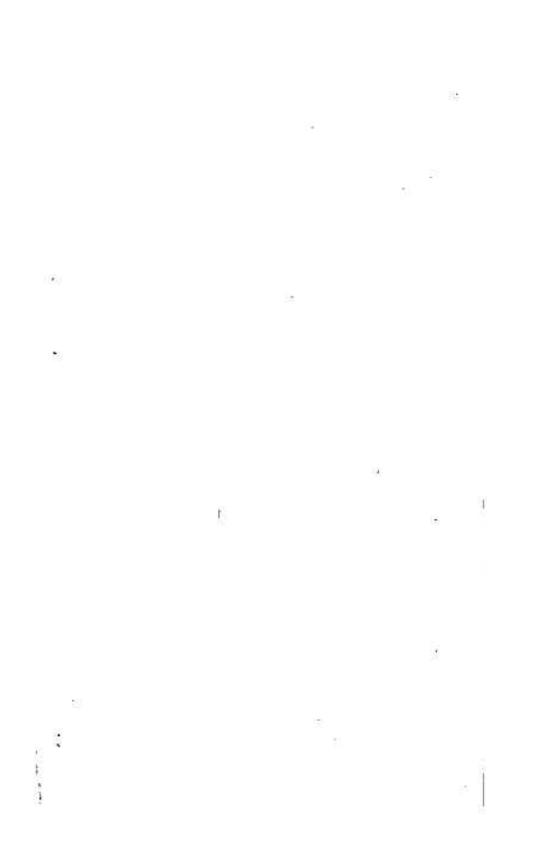
T. FISHER UNWIN

PATERNOSTER SQUARE

MDCCCXC

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THE IMMORTALS

+11

"He règnent tous ensemble, non sur des trènes que la main des hommes peut ronnerser, muis en euxantmes, avec une puissance immundle... He ne portent pas ces vaint diadèmes dont l'éclut cache tant de craintes et de noirs suncis; les dieux nature les ont convounés de leurs propres mains avec des convounes que rien ne peut flétrir."

Fénuson.



PREFATORY NOTE.

THE mode of treatment adopted in the following poem L cigims, perhaps, a word or two of explanation. In the debate here imagined among the Dis Majores of poetry, it was the Author's design that, while each speech should fairly represent the poet to whom it was allotted, it should also reflect the spirit of the times to which, whether as cause, product, or accompanying condition, he belonged. pursuance of this double object the former idea has been, generally, subordinated to the latter; and sometimes an attitude is attributed to a poet more positive than is actually traceable in his written work. This is especially the case with the third speaker, Dante; whose utterance must be taken to represent the spirit of Middle-Age monasticism, rather than any views peculiarly his own. Similarly, the words put into the mouth of the sixth speaker, Goethe, do not pretend to represent, even cursorily, the work of so comprehensive a thinker. They refer chiefly to the debate in progress; expressing, like those allotted to Shakspeare, a reaction from the spirit that "leans" too much "on heaven" to a more mundane philosophy: yet, in their deprecation of