

**POSTHUMOUS POEMS OF
WILLIAM MOTHERWELL.
NOW FIRST COLLECTED**

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Posthumous poems of William Motherwell. Now first collected by William Motherwell

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WILLIAM MOTHERWELL

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MOTHERWELL'S
POSTHUMOUS POEMS.

THE American Publishers have issued this volume in uniform style with their other editions of the Writings of Motherwell, in order that the series might be complete. The volumes already published comprise the *Poetical Works* with the *Memoir*, and the *Minstrelsy, Ancient and Modern*.

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BOSTON:
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MDCCCL.

THURSTON, TORRY, AND SHERBOY, PRINTERS.

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1851

PREFACE TO THE GLASGOW EDITION.

WHEN the Second Edition of Motherwell's Poems was published, in 1847, it was stated in the Preface that the fragments of poetry which he had left behind him in manuscript, and which were not included in that volume, might be given to the public at some future day, should any encouragement be offered for pursuing such a course. This the Publisher has now determined to do; but before taking such a step, he resolved to submit the pieces in question to the critical scrutiny of Motherwell's old friend and poetical ally, Mr. William Kennedy, who chanced to be in Scotland at the time. The reader will, therefore, be good enough to understand that these Poems have been selected by Mr. Kennedy, and are published under his express authority. The Publisher is gratified in being able to make this statement, as it relieves him from a responsibility which he feels that it would not be becoming in him to incur.

LINES

Written after a Visit to the Grave of my Friend,

WILLIAM MOTHERWELL,

NOVEMBER, 1847.

PLACE we a stone at his head and his feet;
Sprinkle his sward with the small flowers sweet;
Piously hallow the Poet's retreat!

Ever approvingly,
Ever most lovingly,

Turned he to Nature, a worshipper meet.

Harm not the thorn which grows at his head;
Oderous honors its blossoms will shed,
Grateful to him, early summoned, who sped

Hence, not unwillingly —
For he felt thrillingly —

To rest his poor heart 'mong the low-lying dead.

Dearer to him than the deep Minster bell,
Winds of sad cadence, at midnight, will swell,
Vocal with sorrows he knoweth too well,

Who, for the early day,
Plaining this roundelay,

Might his own fate from a brother's foretell.