

**RUTHLESS RHYMES
FOR
HEARTLESS HOMES**

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Ruthless Rhymes for Heartless Homes by D. Streamer

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D. STREAMER

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FOR
HEARTLESS HOMES**



RUTHLESS
RHYMES *for*
Heartless Homes

By Col. D. STREAMER



New York

R. H. RUSSELL

1902

(96)

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Dedicated to P. P.

(*"Qui connait son sourire a connu le parfait."*)

I NEED no Comments of the Press,
No critic's cursory caress,
No paragraphs my book to bless
With praise, or ban with curses,
So long as You, for whom I write,
Whose single notice I invite,
Are still sufficiently polite
To smile upon my verses.

If You should seek for Ruthless Rhymes
(In memory of Western climes),
And, for the sake of olden times,
Obtain this new edition,
You must not be surprised a bit,
Nor even deem the act unfit,
That I have dedicated it
To You, without permission.

P. T. O.

And if You chance to ask me why,
It is sufficient, I reply,
That You are You, and I am I,—
 To put the matter briefly.
That I should dedicate to You
Can only interest us two;
The fact remains, then, that I do,
 Because I want to — chiefly.

And if these verses can beguile
From those grey eyes of yours a smile,
You will have made it well worth while
 To seek your approbation;
 No further meed
 Of praise they need,
 But must succeed,
 And do indeed,
 If they but lead
 You on to read
Beyond the Dedication.

Author's Preface

WITH guilty, conscience-stricken
tears
I offer up these rhymes of mine
To children of maturer years
(From Seventeen to Ninety-nine).
A special solace may they be
In days of second infancy.

The frenzied mother who observes
This volume in her offspring's hand,
And trembles for the darling's nerves,
Must please to clearly understand,
If baby suffers by-and-bye
The Artist is to blame, not *I!*

But should the little brat survive,
And fatten on the Ruthless Rhyme,
To raise a Heartless Home and thrive
Through a successful life of crime,
The Artist hopes that you will see
That *I* am to be thanked, not *he!*

P. T. O.

Fond parent, you whose children are
Of tender age (from two to eight),
Pray keep this little volume far
From reach of such, and relegate
My verses to an upper shelf,—
Where you may study them yourself.

