

**SONNETS,
PP. 3-71**

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Sonnets, pp. 3-71 by George T. S. Farquhar

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GEORGE T. S. FARQUHAR

**SONNETS,
PP. 3-71**

SONNETS.

BY
REV. GEORGE T. S. FARQUHAR, M.A.,
CANON AND PRECENTOR OF S. NINIAN'S CATHEDRAL, PERTH.

WITH INTRODUCTORY VERSES

BY
RIGHT REV. CHAS. WORDSWORTH, D.D., D.C.L.,
BISHOP OF S. ANDREWS, ETC.

"With stammering lips and insufficient sound
I strive and struggle to deliver right
The music of my nature."

—*Mrs. Browning.*

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S. COWAN & CO., PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS.

1890.

LOAN STACK



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Preface.

IN presenting these verses to a wider public than the few who have already seen them in manuscript, I will not attempt to explain or defend them. I hope that they will explain and defend themselves.

It may, however, save some readers trouble if I state that, though the Sonnets are naturally arranged in groups and numbered, every one in the volume was composed independently of all the others, and forms a complete whole by itself. This, indeed, ought always to be the case with Sonnets.

It may also be as well, lest this little book should fall into the hands of even one person who does not know what a Sonnet is, to explain the laws to be observed in this kind of poetry. Its most essential rules are as follows:—(1.) The Sonnet must consist of fourteen lines. (2.) These must fall into two groups of four lines each, followed by two of three each. (3.) In the first eight lines only two rhyme sounds are allowed, and are only allowed in the following order, *i.e.*, lines 1, 4, 5, 8 must rhyme together, and lines 2, 3, 6, 7 must also rhyme together. (4.) In the last six lines, three rhyme sounds are allowed, and may be arranged in any order, it being preferable that a rhyming couplet should not come last. This is the normal form of the Sonnet. But there is also another, called

the Shakespearian, on the model of which several of the following have been composed.¹ This consists, not like the former, of eight lines followed by six, but of three sets of four lines followed by a rhyming couplet. In this species the rules for rhyming are not so strict. Unless these rudimentary rules are understood, it is not very easy to enter into the spirit of a Sonnet.

I can scarcely hope to have here shewn myself complete master of so elaborate and delicate a form of poetical composition, but yet, as Shakespeare says,

“Lean Penury within that Pen doth dwell
That to his subject lends not some small glory.”²

A few of the following have already appeared in the *Scottish Guardian* and one or two in the *Perthshire Advertiser* and *Perthshire Constitutional*, but the great majority are here printed for the first time.

Finally, I must express my sincere thanks to the Bishop of S. Andrews for speaking an encouraging word with regard to the first group of these Sonnets.

GEORGE T. S. FARQUHAR.

20 BALHOUSIE STREET,
PERTH, April 10, 1890.

¹ Namely those on pages 35, 42, 52, 66. ² Sonnet lxxxiv.

PREFATORY SONNET.