

SACRED SONGS

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Sacred Songs by George Matheson

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GEORGE MATHESON

SACRED SONGS

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BY

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EDINBURGH

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PREFACE TO THIRD EDITION.

I WAS originally much exercised as to what title I ought to give these verses collectively. The difficulty arose from the desire to avoid pretentiousness by seeming to claim for them more than they aspire to be. I decided that, in point of form, their distinctive feature was a varied rhythmicalness, and therefore I called them "Sacred Songs." The subject-matter was suggested by Scriptural texts, but there was no attempt to classify or systematise: I simply followed the impression of the moment and endeavoured to express the sentiment in its appropriate cadence. These pieces were

never intended as a volume of hymns ; but, contrary to my expectation, many of them have been so adapted. Accordingly, in issuing this new edition, I have thought fit to add to the collection that hymn which, since the publication of these songs, has found a place in the united praise - book of the Scottish Churches, and which I have here entitled "Self-Surrender."

G. M.

EDINBURGH, 1904.

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