

**A HUNDRED POEMS;
SELECTED FROM HIS
VARIOUS VOLUMES**

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A hundred poems; selected from his various volumes by Sir William Watson

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SIR WILLIAM WATSON

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WILLIAM WATSON

A Hundred Poems

by

Sir William Watson

Selected from his
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PREFATORY NOTE

THE only earlier volume of selections from Sir William Watson's poetry is now, like the collected editions that preceded and followed it, out of print, and, like them, it will not be reprinted. It had become less and less representative of his poetical work as a whole, being a selection drawn from only six of his separate books, whereas the present selection has been drawn from seventeen.

His longest poems of the narrative order have as a matter of course been excluded from this volume, being obviously outside its compass. On quite different grounds everything has been banished that could be called political, in the sense now most frequently given to that word. Two short poems arising out of certain events which darkened the 'nineties can hardly be accused of forming an exception to this rule, as they merely express common human feeling, and indeed had their source in something altogether distinct from party creeds and party passions.

The author has added to the main body of the volume a few of his epigrams, quatrains, and kindred pieces, some of them written more than forty years ago, others quite recently. Apart from all question of merit or interest, a reader might very well murmur if things of such extreme brevity had been counted among the Hundred Poems offered him. They have not, however, been so counted, but are additional to that number.

In arranging the contents of this book no attempt has been made at chronological sequence, except in the case of a few short poems here and there, which for reasons

PREFATORY NOTE

perhaps more interesting to the writer than to the reader are grouped in the order in which they seem to have been written.

In everything taken from the latest collected edition of the author's poems the emendations which were a feature of that edition have been followed, except once or twice where he believes that they have been improved upon. The poems selected from his subsequent volumes appear, in at least two instances, with perhaps more than slight revision.

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