

**STAR-DUST; OR,  
POEMS, SONGS,  
AND SONNETS**

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Star-Dust; Or, Poems, Songs, and Sonnets by William S. Aitken

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**WILLIAM S. AITKEN**

**STAR-DUST; OR,  
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AND SONNETS**



# STAR-DUST;

OR,

POEMS, SONGS, AND SONNETS.

BY

WILLIAM S. AITKEN,

AUTHOR OF "SKETCHES," ETC.

Truly

Here's the work I hand, this scroll  
Yours to take or leave.

—ROBERT BROWNING.

ABERDEEN:

WILLIAM WALKER, BRIDGE STREET.

1883.

TO

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF ROSSLYN, M.A., Oxon.,

AUTHOR OF "SONNETS," ETC.,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME, BY PERMISSION,

IS RESPECTFULLY

DEDICATED.



## PREFACE.

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A PREFACE to any book is useful only in explaining the intention of its author or compiler, that he may be clearly understood and not be subjected to any unjust censure.

The Author of the present volume has only two things to explain, and these are, its title, and the reason which led to its publication.

"Star-Dust," at first sight, may be somewhat puzzling, but, when the first sonnet is perused, some little insight to its meaning will be gathered. The phrase first emanated from the rich, prolific and poetical pen of late Rev. George Gilfillan, Dundee, which gentleman, when speaking or writing of minor poetry in general, always characterised it as "Star-Dust," thereby referring to poetry from the lesser poets or "stars".

For the publication of the book little has to be said.

A desire fostered amongst a few of the author's friends for a small collection of his poetical pieces—hence the venture.

As to the division of the book, it is very apparent some of the poems might have appeared amongst the songs, whilst on the other hand, some of the songs might have judiciously been placed amongst the poems: this, however, to the general reader, is a matter of little importance.



It but now remains to be said that the whole of the pieces were penned during short hours of leisure snatched from the business of every-day-work of a young son of toil, who had no idea that they would ever appear in a more permanent form than they did in the many publications in which they have—with few exceptions—originally appeared, under many initials and *nomes-de-plume*.

Being, as they are, the productions of a youthful writer, there will no doubt, present itself to the experienced critic certain crudities which time and study cannot fail to efface.

Nevertheless, despite all traceable faults, that the perusal of the book may give as much pleasure as the writing of it afforded, is the only wish of the

AUTHOR.

ABERDEEN, 1883.

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