

**HISTORICAL LAYS,
AND
MINOR POEMS**

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Historical Lays, and Minor Poems by Philip Smith Sparling

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PHILIP SMITH SPARLING.

"VOX ET PRÆTEREA NIHIL."

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1851.

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TO THE

REV. THOMAS UMFREVILLE STONEY, M.A.,

PERPETUAL CURATE OF FATELY, IN YORKSHIRE,

AS A REMEMBRANCE OF LOVED ONES GONE, WITH WHOM HIS
NAME IS EVER ASSOCIATED;

AND ALSO

AS A SMALL TRIBUTE OF THANKFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR
THE INSTILMENT OF THOSE PRINCIPLES WHICH
CAN ALONE GUIDE AND SUPPORT THE WAY-
FARER IN HIS JOURNEY THROUGH A
CHANGEFUL WORLD,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME

IS AFFECTIONATELY, YET MOST RESPECTFULLY, DEDICATED BY
HIS FORMER PUPIL AND EARLY FRIEND,

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

It is now some twelve years since I published a little Volume of Original Poetry, under the title of "A WREATH OF MINSTRELSIE." I said in my Preface to that Book, that I did not present myself in public with any conceit that I should obtain rank or distinction as a Poet. One of the long established periodicals of the then and present day, however, condescended to notice my effusions in a much kindlier spirit than I expected; and, notwithstanding that a fastidious acquaintance said, I was "damned with faint praise," I congratulated myself on having been paid several compliments. The Editor of the periodical in question said I had an ear for music; but that which I considered the truer compliment, was a remark, that I had formed a singularly just appreciation of the merits of my own performance.

I scarcely know what excuse to offer for appearing a second time in print; and all that I can say is, that many who were permitted to read my MSS., were, or seemed to be, pleased; and I

naturally perhaps, thought that others not disposed to be over critical, might also be similarly entertained.

It may be proper to add, that the "Battle of Crecy," and one or two of the minor Poems, have been already in print.

It is not the fashion of the present time to dispraise oneself, and to do so may seem like affectation; but for truth's sake, I feel compelled to remark, that the subjects chosen have not had ample justice done them by me. The faults and imperfections in the Work will be found to abound, and it is not unlikely there may be some plagiarisms; but with regard to these last, I trust I shall have credit when I say, that if there are any, they are wholly unintentional on my part.

COLCHESTER,

January 1851.

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