

**POEMS
AND IDYLLS**

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Poems and Idylls by William Lee

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WILLIAM LEE

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Yours truly
William Lee

POEMS AND IDYLLS.

BY

WILLIAM LEE,

GALSTON.

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June 14, 1904

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TO MY FRIEND
ROBERT YOUNG,
GALSTON,
AUTHOR OF "GALSTON CHARACTERS,"
HIMSELF, IN A HIGHER SENSE, AMONG THE NOBLE BAND
OF CHARACTERS WHICH GALSTON HAS PRODUCED,
THIS BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

In putting before the public in book form the different effusions which go to make up this little volume, I offer no apology, for well I know that anything I might say will in nowise raise or lower the opinion of the critic.

The blemishes which mark the work throughout are well known to the author, yet I cling to the hope that out of the debris there will be found as much as will save it from being termed an infliction.

Should it be found by the unbiassed reader, even in the smallest degree, to have assisted in embellishing the poetic literature of my beloved land, my end is served, and I will look on such a finding as compensation far above rubies. Should it come under the eye of the "learned pundit," I beseech him not to throw it in the waste bin without perusal, though he discovers, as he will at a glance, that the author lacks the advantage of a University education, for he is one who thinks that "poets are born, not made."

With these remarks I would say: Go forth thou true, sweet outcome of my leisure hours, hours snatched from the laborious yet congenial task of breadmaking; nor hang your rough-hewn, honest head, though the chilling blasts of criticism blow ashes in your face.