# THE POEMS

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The poems by Thomas Washbourne

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### THOMAS WASHBOURNE

## THE POEMS



#### The Fuller Morthies' Library.

THE

## POEMS

OF

## THOMAS WASHBOURNE, D.D.

EDITED WITH

Memorial-Entroduction and fotes ;

BY THE

REV. ALEXANDER B. GROSART, St. GEORGE'S, BLACKBURN, LANCASHIRE.

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#### MEMORIAL-INTRODUCTION.

F it be true—and few who really know the facts, will be found to dispute it—that many generations had to pass before either biographic justice or historic recognition, was rendered to the mighty and true men of The Commonwealth of England—who were as really as 'of old' the 'Sword of God' for stern and terrible work—equally must it be admitted, that names of kindred greatness and venerableness and trueness, on 'the other side', have partaken of the tarrish and the shame indelibly belonging to that sorrowful period of The Restoration of 1660. It is well that at this 'later day'

The skirts of mist, and to our vision cleared,
In luminous distinction, all unsphered,
The adverse circles of the Church and World'
the foremost Thinkers and Writers—irrespective
of party—have come to recognize what of Brainpower and Heart-worth, were on either side: and
to concede to each the usual mixture of lofty and

mean, pure and stained, single-eyed and self-seeking.

'Puritan'—applied earlier and later—has long been emptied of its scorn and cleansed of its opprobium: and, in turn, the generalization of 'The Royalists' no longer hides from as that there were within their ranks in State and Church, men, ay and women—if 'lady' were more honouring I should give it freely—of fine patriotism, and beautiful allegiance to conviction, and peerless integrity, and heroic self-sacrifice,

"Who dreamed of honour, and had heart to die For their own brave and glorious dream."

That they loved 'not wisely' but 'too well' that the objects of their splendid loyalty were falser and so baser, than ever heathen-knee bowed to—abates nothing of our homage, if it thrill to wonder and deepen our sorrow.

Of the many Families, all of the 'ancient days', who staked and lost uncomplainingly, ancestral wealth and position and 'good name' for the King if not 'the Kingdom,' that of the Washbournesis of the foremost; and the oblivion that has hitherto fallen on the 'Divine Poems' of a scion of this renowned 'stock,' is largely to be explained by the shadow that lay broad and black over the 'losing cause' at the period is which the modest little

volume made its first shy appeal ' to the ingenuous reader'.

When the right man appears to perform for 'The ROYALISTS' something finer and deeper than the 'State-Worthies' of LLOYD-whether in the originalslender folio or the more recent two duodecimos edited by Whitworth (1766)-or than even the 'mighty line' of Clarendon: and surely it is not creditable that the meaner 'Loralists' of America should have found adequate memorial from Lorenzo Sabine, while England's nobler and prouder names have only fragmentary record?—the Washbournes will claim and reward fullest research and lovingest workmanship. There are living representatives of the Family who might be worse occupied than in preparing such a Memorial-volume of the name, as from year to year reach us from the United States concerning their mother-Country names and lineage. There are Washbournes of repute in America, so that I am not without hope of homeneglect being atoned for by trans-Atlantic love and reverence.\* Meanwhile, after all diligence and

<sup>\*</sup>I may recal the scholarly and excellent Rev. Dr. E. A. Washburn, Rector of Calvary Church, New York: and the strong-brained member of Congress of the name. All the American Washburns spring from our Washburnes.

persistence of inquiry in likely quarters, the result is inconsiderable. But it is to be noted that if our Memoir be slight and brief, it is relatively large and substantive, inasmuch as the name will be looked for in vain in the usual biographic authorities; even the omniverous Anthony a-Wood furnishes little more than a few College dates. He outlived Thomas Fuller: and hence could find no place in his 'Worthies': but it is tantalizing to come on abounding notices of other Washbournes, and their innumerable inter-marriages, in the 'County' Histories of Nash and Athyns and their compeers: and not a line on our 'sweet singer'.

The Washbournes reach back—not by mere boastful tradition, but by extant 'records' and muniments—to before the Conqueror.

In his immortal 'Britannia'—Camden thus eulogizes them: "Under these Bredon hills southward, you see two villages named Washbornes—whence came the surname to a very ancient and worshipfull Family in this tract.": or as elsewhere "a very ancient and illustrious family in these parts"—\* Similarly Nash observes "little

<sup>\*</sup>English adition, 1610, p. 577: and Gough's Camden, (3 vols. folio, 1789) Vol n, 353.

Washborne, anciently Washborne.....It is sometimes called Knight's Washborne from the knightly character of the Washbornes, who took their surnames from honce: for men generally have their names from towns and not towns from men": and further "of this family were Sir Roger and Sir John Washborne before the reign of Edward III, as appears by a record which Mr. Habingdon saw in the possession of Sir Richard St George: in their coat-armour they quartered the arms of Zouch, Corber, Wysham, Walshe and Blount: they bere likewise the arms of the earl of Warwick's second son, perhaps only as kinsmen or clients to that mighty carl."\*

It were easy to multiply heraldic 'boastings' of this type: and to tell of wise and brave, gentle and fair, scious of this preeminently 'blue blood' House: but those who are curious for such lore will not grudge to 'search' the folios of Nash and Atkyns: and so I simply name the Musands and Poiers (or Poers or Powers) and Statles and Salweys and D'Abitors and Thromwins, and other 'great ones', whose family-trees show grafting, and planting and transplanting, through many generations, and with change and interchange of

<sup>\*</sup>Nash's 'Worcestershire' (2 vols. folio) Vol n, 263, seqq.

many a 'fair Estate' with the Washbournes; and conversely—emerging later in the Foleys (of Richard Baxter's 'Relique') and the Winningtons of Stanford Court—so admirably represented in the present cultured 'lord of the manor.'—\*

It would seem that that the Washbournes have all spring from Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. "They married" according to Camber "in the 15th century into the family of Poher at Wichenford in this county [of Worcestershire] to which they removed." Nash says "Wichenspord Count came about the time of Henry IV to Norman Washborne" t

'To this day' the Estates of the Washbournes remain, to attest the former renown and splendour of the Family. With Wxchenforn for centre, and a circumference stretching into neighbouring counties, you have in them fine old Mansions, mosted and parked, and presenting every variety of sylvan

<sup>\*</sup>See Nash, as supra and Atkyn's 'Gloucestershire' [folio 1712: 2nd edit.]....,

<sup>+</sup>As before, edn. by Gouon, Vol II. 369. The removal was not very distant, as while Great Washbourne is in the border of Gloucestershire. Little Washbourne is in Worcestershire.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>‡</sup>As before, Vol 11. 458.