# SONGS IN THE NIGHT AND OTHER POEMS

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Songs in the Night and Other Poems by Augusta Theodosia Drane

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## **AUGUSTA THEODOSIA DRANE**

# SONGS IN THE NIGHT AND OTHER POEMS



SONGS IN THE NIGHT.

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## SONGS IN THE NIGHT

AND

## Dther Poems.

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS AND SCHOLARS."

"Where is God who made me, Who giveth Songs in the Night?"



### LONDON:

BURNS AND OATES, 17 & 18 PORTMAN STREET, AND 63 PATERNOSTER ROW.

280 . n. 977 .



### PREFACE.

THE title of this little volume has been chosen from the circumstance that several of the poems here collected were originally suggested by passages in the Spiritual Canticles of St John of the Cross, whose use of the word Night, in a mystic sense, is too well known to require explanation. Where this has been the case, the particular passage is prefixed by way of motto, but (with the single exception of the "Fountain of the Night") the poems are in no sense a version of the Spanish text. In one respect, however, they follow its method, being for the most part written in the first person, as best fitted to convey the experience of each individual soul.

To the original pieces have been added a few imitations of our ancient religious poetry, of which the most considerable is a portion of Lydgate's "Court of Sapience." In this poem the old writer has expanded the exquisite metaphor of the 84th Psalm into a dramatic narrative, wherein the divine attributes of Mercy, Truth, Peace, and Justice are boldly personified. The modernised version given in this volume has aimed at preserving the substance, and even the phraseology of the original, with only so much alteration as might render it intelligible to modern readers.

A. T. D.

ST Dominic's Convent, Stone, March 7th, 1876.

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