

**POEMS OF THE
PAST AND
THE PRESENT**

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Poems of the past and the present by Thomas Hardy

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THOMAS HARDY

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BY
THOMAS HARDY

John



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PREFACE

HEREWITH I tender my thanks to the editors and proprietors of the *Times*, the *Morning Post*, the *Daily Chronicle*, the *Westminster Gazette*, *Literature*, the *Graphic*, *Cornhill*, *Sphere*, and other papers, for permission to reprint from their pages such of the following pieces of verse as have already been published.

Of the subject-matter of this volume which is in other than narrative form, much is dramatic or impersonative even where not

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explicitly so. Moreover, that portion which may be regarded as individual comprises a series of feelings and fancies written down in widely differing moods and circumstances, and at various dates. It will probably be found, therefore, to possess little cohesion of thought or harmony of colouring. I do not greatly regret this. Unadjusted impressions have their value, and the road to a true philosophy of life seems to lie in humbly recording diverse readings of its phenomena as they are forced upon us by chance and change.

T. H.

August 1901.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
V.R. 1819-1901	1
WAR POEMS—	
EMBARCATION	5
DEPARTURE	7
THE COLONEL'S SOLILOQUY	9
THE GOING OF THE BATTERY	12
AT THE WAR OFFICE	15
A CHRISTMAS GHOST-STORY	17
THE DEAD DRUMMER	19
A WIFE IN LONDON	21
THE SOULS OF THE SLAIN	23
SONG OF THE SOLDIERS' WIVES	30
THE SICK GOD	33

	PAGE
POEMS OF PILGRIMAGE—	
GENOA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN	39
SHELLEY'S SKYLARK	42
IN THE OLD THEATRE, FIESOLE	44
ROME : ON THE PALATINE	46
" BUILDING A NEW STREET IN THE ANCIENT QUARTER	48
" THE VATICAN : SALA DELLE MUSE	50
" AT THE PYRAMID OF CESTIUS	53
LAUSANNE : IN GIBDON'S OLD GARDEN	56
ZERMATT : TO THE MATTERHORN	58
THE BRIDGE OF LODI	60
ON AN INVITATION TO THE UNITED STATES	65
MISCELLANEOUS POEMS—	
THE MOTHER MOURNS	69
"I SAID TO LOVE"	75
A COMMONPLACE DAY	77
AT A LUNAR ECLIPSE	80
THE LACKING SENSE	82
TO LIFE	86
DOOM AND SHE	88
THE PROBLEM	91
THE SUBALTERNS	93
THE SLEEP-WORKER	95
THE BULLFINCHES	97

CONTENTS

ix

	PAGE
GOD-FORGOTTEN	99
THE BEDRIDDEN PEASANT TO AN UN- KNOWING GOD	103
BY THE EARTH'S CORPSE	106
X MUTE OPINION	109
X TO AN UNBORN PAUPER CHILD	111
TO FLOWERS FROM ITALY IN WINTER	114
+ ON A FINE MORNING	116
TO LIZBIE BROWNE	118
SONG OF HOPE	122
THE WELL-BELOVED	124
X HER REPROACH	128
THE INCONSISTENT	130
X A BROKEN APPOINTMENT	132
+ "BETWEEN US NOW"	134
+ "HOW GREAT MY GRIEF"	136
+ "I NEED NOT GO"	137
THE COQUETTE, AND AFTER A SPOT	139
LONG PLIGHTED	143
THE WIDOW	145
+ AT A HASTY WEDDING	148
THE DREAM-FOLLOWER	149
+ HIS IMMORTALITY	150
THE TO-BE-FORGOTTEN	152
WIVES IN THE SERE	155
THE SUPERSEDED	157