

# **VOICES OF ERIN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649394524

Voices of Erin by Michael J. Neary Neary & John J. Walsh

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**MICHAEL J. NEARY NEARY & JOHN J. WALSH**

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By  
John J. Walsh  
and  
Michael J. Neary



THE CHAT  
Printers and Publishers  
16-18 WEIRFIELD STREET  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

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**JOHN J. WALSH**

## DEDICATION

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We dedicate these humble poems  
To those, above all others,  
Who love us most, who gave us most,  
Whom we love most—our mothers.

M. J. N.

J. J. W.

W O N 19 FEB 1936

## FOREWORD

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In this, our first venture into the realm of literature, we ask our readers to consider the spirit more than the merit of our work. We have written under disadvantages—in spare moments snatched from the study of the classics, and other disadvantages known but to ourselves. We cherish the hope of doing better things in the future but, perhaps, this is always what “dreaming poets sing.”

We do not wish for fame, but only a kindly place in the hearts of those who know us. We wish our faults to be forgiven, and to have the good will of our friends in all our efforts.

MICHAEL J. NEARY,

JOHN J. WALSH,

*St. Joseph's Seminary,  
Baltimore, Md.*

March 1st, 1918.



## INTRODUCTION

\*

Poetry is today, as it always has been, a source of the greatest pleasure to most of us; nor is there anything in use by man, for power of good, to equal it. Poetry, of the right kind, stimulates all that is good and noble in our nature.

Poets, those who sing of God; the human soul, the rippling rill, the thundering ocean; the serenity of domestic bliss; the consolation of sympathy, have verily a divine vocation, and we should rather encourage their numbers than stifle their aspirations. Hence, with this idea uppermost in our mind, we may well welcome the productions herewith given to the world. The authors—Messrs. J. J. Walsh and M. J. Neary—are not vain enough, nor are we who wish them success optimistic enough, to think that those productions shall revolutionize poetry; but we who wish them success are conscious of the fact that what these productions lack in poetical diction, they endeavor to supply in purity of thought, simplicity of dress, and sublimity of aspiration.

Let us give credit to those young authors who, like Pope, "have lisped in numbers for the numbers came"; and, because their souls tingled with those ideas, poetic, pure, lofty, they now venture the indulgence of the world with the expectation

that hearts responsive to genuine aspirations will add to those productions the approval of their commendation; not, of course, that those productions will or can wholly merit unstinted commendation, but we cannot forget, and, however presumptuous the excuse, we should make allowance for the fact that they were written in spare moments during their authors' years in Epiphany College (Baltimore) from which, as the college records prove, those young men have graduated with distinction.

It may seem, but is not an excuse of mediocre abilities when we ask: Why expect from those humble authors what no author has ever given us, namely, perfection? It must be admitted that those authors' poetry is no vain display of hollow-sounding trumpets, nor does it present the hectic flush of artificiality—it is the simple outpourings of pure thoughts in humble garb; its purpose is not to dazzle, nor yet to serve as a criterion of poetry, but that readers may find in it what its authors have found—an innocent entertainment.

Whatever their shortcomings, we may truly say these poems, written on various subjects, show a love for truth and justice, and these are qualities which may well recommend them to the public. A lofty thought, clothed in the garb of poetry, is, like our Revolution's "soldiers in their ragged regimentals," poor in external show, but

intrinsically wealthy; rich in purpose, bearing a heart pure, good, inspiring.

We have no hesitation in commending this little volume of poems to the public; because even if it has nothing extraordinary to commend it, it has, at least, nothing to hinder its success, and we congratulate the young authors who are aspiring to the priesthood and at present studying in St. Joseph's Seminary, Baltimore. It will give them an opportunity to teach and practice those virtues which their poems so truly inculcate; and, that those poems and their authors may be successful in this, and every undertaking that can rightly claim purity its cause, the spread of morality its guide, and the greater glory of God its motive, we anticipate, on their behalf, the approval and support of those who still appreciate honest effort and who, like our authors, are willing to advance that which aims at the furtherance of Truth, Right, and Christian Love.

REV. JOS. P. HANLEY,

Rector, Epiphany College, Baltimore, Md.

March 1st, 1918.

