

**SONG OF THE LONDON
MAN, SONG
OF SOUTH AFRICA
AND OTHER POEMS**

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Song of the London Man, Song of South Africa and Other Poems by Alice Dacre MacKay

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ALICE DACRE MACKAY

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SONG OF SOUTH AFRICA

And Other Poems

BY

ALICE DACRE MACKAY

WITH A PORTRAIT OF
THE AUTHOR

LONDON

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TO THE DEAR MEMORY OF
MY HUSBAND
I DEDICATE THIS VOLUME

REMEMBRANCE

'Sweet Love of Youth! forgive if I forget thee
Whilst the world's tide is bearing me along!
Other desires and other hopes beset me,—
Hopes which obscure, but cannot do thee wrong!

For when the days of golden dreams had perished,
And e'en Despair was powerless to destroy,—
Then did I learn how existence could be cherished,
Strengthened, and fed without the aid of Joy;—

Then did I check those tears of useless passion,
Weaned my sad heart from yearning after thine;
Sternly denied its burning wish to hasten
Down to that Tomb already more than mine.'

EMILY BRONTË.

861811



PREFACE

I AM indebted to the courtesy of the Editor of *Blackwood's Magazine* for permission to reprint here 'Ariadne in Naxos,' 'Illusion,' 'Phantasies,' and 'Where Love doth Dwell,' all of which appeared in *Maga*.

Similar thanks are due to the Editor of *The Pall Mall Magazine*, for allowing me to include 'Antony to Cleopatra'; to the Editor of the late *Argosy*, for permission to reproduce 'Two Outlooks,' 'Heart's Haven,' 'Ars Longa,' 'Omnia Vincit Amor,' 'Dante and Beatrice,' 'Love's Request,' and 'Love's Farewell'; and to the Editors of *The Cape Illustrated Magazine*, *The Examiner*, Beaufort West, *Grocott's Mail*, Grahamstown, and *London Opinion*, London, for permission to use 'Cui Bono,' 'A Phantasy of Reincarnation,' 'In Memoriam,' and the prize sonnet, 'To a Cold in the Head,' which were published originally in their respective magazines.

I also feel it necessary to publicly express my

warm gratitude to E. Laver-Aldham, Esq., of Highams House, Essex, who, having read some of my verses printed in magazines, and liking them, said he could wish to see them collected in volume form. On the strength of having met my late husband abroad, and of knowing that he too had wished me to collect my poems, Mr. Laver-Aldham generously came forward with truly disinterested kindness, and urged me to publish, and to permit him to bear all the expenses incidental to publication. This I at first hesitated to do, but ultimately accepted; and it is to him I am indebted for the publication of this volume.

I am aware that this gentleman does not desire any thanks, and even disclaims all merit for the kind act with the jesting remark that 'It is not every day he would be likely to have such an opportunity of feeling amused at the idea that he had suddenly adopted a new rôle by becoming, as it were, a Promoter of the Arts and a Patron of the Muses!'

In this case, however, I fear 'The Muses' are not too worthily represented. I am sadly conscious of the limitations of my own particular Muse.