

**LAYS OF THE LAKES, AND
OTHER
POEMS OF DESCRIPTION
AND REFLECTION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649505555

Lays of the Lakes, and Other Poems of Description and Reflection by Catherine Ponsonby

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Cover @ 2017

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CATHERINE PONSONBY

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OF
DESCRIPTION AND REFLECTION.

BY CATHERINE PONSONBY,

AUTHOR OF "THE PROSPECT, OR SCENES OF REAL LIFE;" "THE MYSTERIES
OF PROVIDENCE AND TRIUMPHS OF GRACE;" "THE PRINCESS
D'AUVERGNE, OR SUFFERINGS OF THE FRIENDS
PROTESTANTS," &c.



EDINBURGH:
WILLIAM WHYTE & CO.,
BOOKSELLERS TO THE LATE QUEEN ADELAIDE;
W. COLLINS, GLASGOW; W. CURRY, JUN., & CO., DUBLIN;
LONGMAN & CO., LONDON.

MDCCL.

PRINTED BY W. AND R. TOFTS, HIGH STREET, EDINBURGH.

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P R E F A C E .

THERE is nothing more delightful, to the refined and enlightened Christian mind, than the sweet strains of Poetry, when consecrated to Religion; when it breathes forth, in the mild and mingled melody of its own beautiful and peculiar language, the feelings and the sentiments—the joys and the sorrows of the heart, and the rich and divine consolations of the Gospel. It seems, indeed, when thus employed, divinely suited to the character of that religion which binds up the broken heart, pours the balm of consolation into the wounded spirit, and cheers and brightens the varied scenes of human life.

The Poetry produced by the scenes of nature, and the incidents and events of life, in connection with the experience of piety in the soul, though simple in its form and exclusive in its character, still appears to possess, from its very nature, a sweet and powerful influence over the feelings and affections of the

heart, pervaded by sentiments, or touched with sorrows similar to those which it delineates. The tendency of such a species of Sacred Poetry is undoubtedly to strengthen the spiritual life of the Christian, and to excite a spirit of devotion in the soul. It is with these impressions that the following Poems, composed principally upon incidental occasions of the nature alluded to, have been allowed to assume their present form.