

**MUSINGS IN VERSE ON  
THE COLLECTS  
FOR THE SUNDAYS  
AND CHIEF HOLYDAYS**

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Musings in Verse on the Collects for the Sundays and Chief Holydays by Laura Hampton

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**LAURA HAMPTON**

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FOR THE SUNDAYS  
AND CHIEF HOLYDAYS**



*MUSINGS IN VERSE*

ON THE

*COLLECTS,*

FOR THE

**Sundays and Chief Holydays.**

BY

THE LADY LAURA HAMPTON.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY THE RIGHT HON. LORD SELBORNE.



LONDON :

W. KENT AND Co., 23, PATERNOSTER ROW :

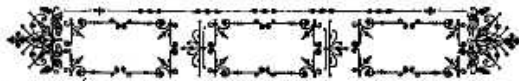
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1879.

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**257** The proceeds derived from the Sale of this Work to be devoted to the New English Church at Biarritz.



To

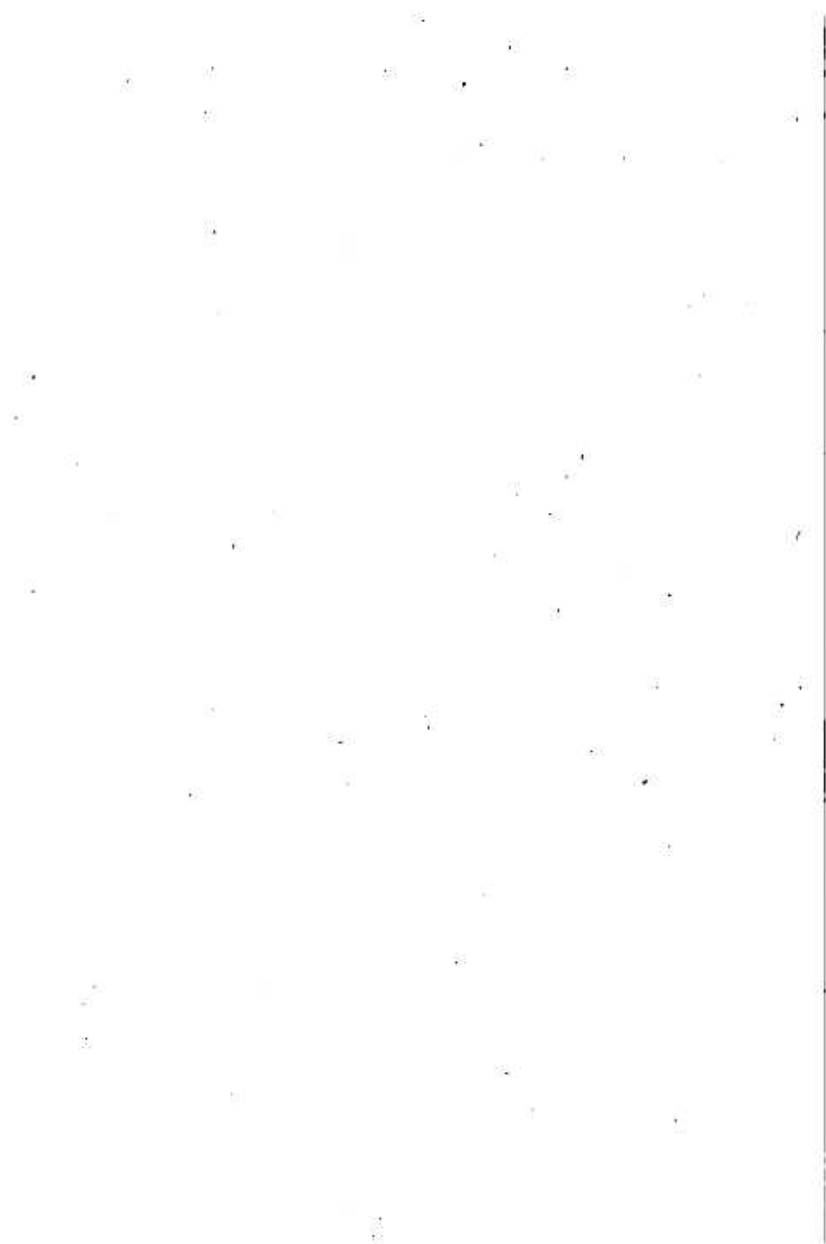
**My Mother,**

These pages

are

Lovingly Inscribed.









## INTRODUCTION.



**I**T HAS been the wish of the authoress of these poems, that the few words of Introduction, which it may be proper to prefix to them, should be from another hand than her own.

The Collects of the Church of England are distinguished, in a remarkable degree, by simplicity, truth, and force; terseness and felicity of expression; and concentrated meaning, within a very short compass. Venerable, as most of them are, from their origin in a remote Catholic antiquity, experience has proved their suitability to the spiritual wants of all succeeding generations of Christians. Why, it may be asked, should any attempt be made to present their thoughts, or the thoughts which they suggest, in any other than the almost perfect form, with which we are already familiar?

The best justification for such an attempt may perhaps be found in the tendency of reverent love to dwell upon, and reproduce and reflect, the feelings and ideas

associated with what it has found helpful. To such an impulse are due the metrical translations and adaptations of Psalms, of which there are so many in our language : and, though it may be true of these generally, that their measure of success is not great, some of them have nevertheless taken a strong hold of the sympathies, and live in the memories, of large numbers of men. It ought not to surprise any one, that the Collects should have excited similar feelings in a mind like that of the present Authoress ; nor that she should entertain the hope, that some persons may possibly be aided by her work to enter more deeply into their spirit, and to retain definite conceptions of it more freshly in their memories. The proper office of the Collects being Prayer, the mental attitude of the worshipper, when using them for that purpose, must necessarily be subjective. That attitude, when they become the subjects of reflection and meditation, naturally undergoes a change, varying according to the susceptibilities of different minds. The expression of it, as realised by one individual mind, is the design of this work.

It must be left to others to measure the degree of success with which that design has been executed. No one, however, can avoid seeing, that the Authoress has understood simplicity, reality, and an unambitious style, to be essential conditions of her undertaking. The Poems divide themselves into two classes ; those which do, and those which do not, adhere strictly to the matter of the Collects themselves. Those of the former class, in which the influence of the original is throughout predominant, are the more

numerous : and it is not impossible that in these there may sometimes appear to be an excess of homeliness, and perhaps a too rigid exclusion of poetical artifice. These, however, (if faults), are, in this style of composition, nearly allied to virtues, particularly to that of reverence; and they are certainly preferable to the smallest departure from the simplicity of truth. In the poems of the other class, (which are generally longer), the Authoress has given more free scope to her own thoughts and feelings : and it is perhaps from these, that the best estimate of her powers may be formed.

It is due to her to say, that this volume would not have been made public at all, without the encouragement of friends, to whose judgment she was willing to defer ; and who are content to accept the responsibility of thinking, that more than a few persons may appreciate, and derive pleasure and profit from, this her labour of love ; while others, who may be less sympathetic, will recognize in it a spirit, sufficiently worthy of their respect to disarm unkindly criticism.

August, 1879.

SELBORNE