POETICAL WORKS OF LIONEL JOHNSON

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Poetical Works of Lionel Johnson by Lionel Johnson

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LIONEL JOHNSON FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT WINCHESTER SCHOOL, 1885

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LIONEL JOHNSON FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD, WHEN PRESIDENT OF THE NEW COLLEGE ESSAY SOCIETY, 1889

POEMS

WINCHESTER

To the fairest!

Then to thee Consecrate and bounden be. Winchester! this verse of mine. Ah, that loveliness of thine! To have lived enchaunted years Free from sorrows, free from fears, Where thy Tower's great shadow falls Over those proud buttressed walls; Whence a purpling glory pours From high heaven's inheritors, Throned within the arching stone! To have wandered, hushed, alone, Gently round thy fair, fern-grown Chauntry of the Lilies, lying Where the soft night winds go sighing Round thy Cloisters, in moonlight Branching dark, or touched with white: Round old, chill aisles, where moon-smitten Blanches the Orate, written Under each worn, old-world face Graven on Death's holy place!

To the noblest!

None but thee. Blest our living eyes, that see Half a thousand years fulfilled Of that age, which Wykeham willed Thee to win; yet all unworn, As upon that first March morn, When thine honoured city saw Thy young beauty without flaw, Born within her water-flowing, Ancient hollows, by wind-blowing Hills enfolded ever more. Thee, that lord of splendid lore, Orient from old Hellas' shore, Grocyn, had to mother: thee, Monumental majesty Of most high philosophy Honours, in thy wizard Browne: Tender Otway's dear renown, Mover of a perfect pity, Victim of the iron city, Thine to cherish is: and thee, Laureate of Liberty; Harper of the Highland faith, Elf, and faery, and wan wraith; Chaunting softly, chaunting slowly, Minstrel of all melancholy; Master of all melody, Made to cling round memory; Passion's poet, Evening's voice, Collins glorified. Rejoice, Mother! in thy sons: for all