

**STRAY THOUGHTS IN  
PROSE AND VERSE.  
SPRING BLOSSOMS**

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Stray Thoughts in Prose and Verse. Spring Blossoms by I. E. Hervey

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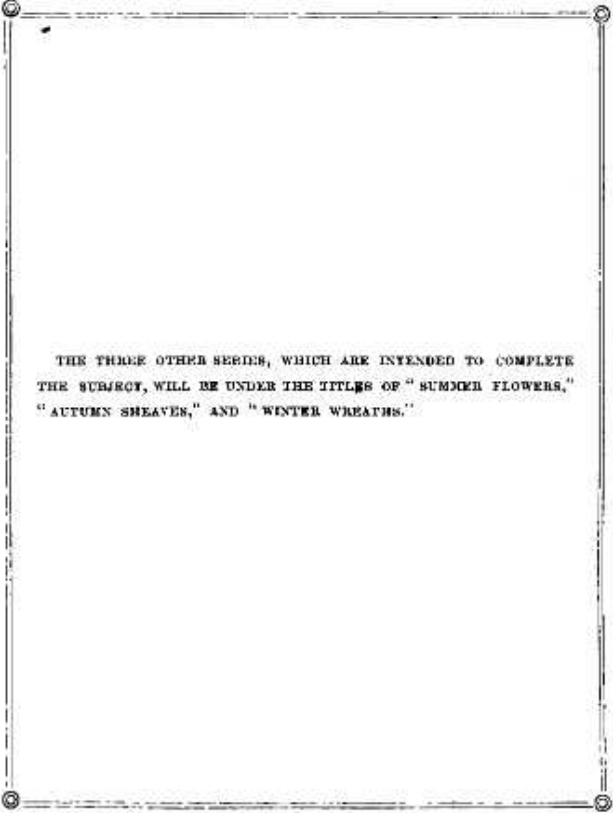
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**I. E. HERVEY**

**STRAY THOUGHTS IN  
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THE THREE OTHER SERIES, WHICH ARE INTENDED TO COMPLETE  
THE SUBJECT, WILL BE UNDER THE TITLES OF "SUMMER FLOWERS,"  
"AUTUMN SHEAVES," AND "WINTER WREATHS."

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IN  
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**Spring Blossoms.**

WITH  
A PREFACE

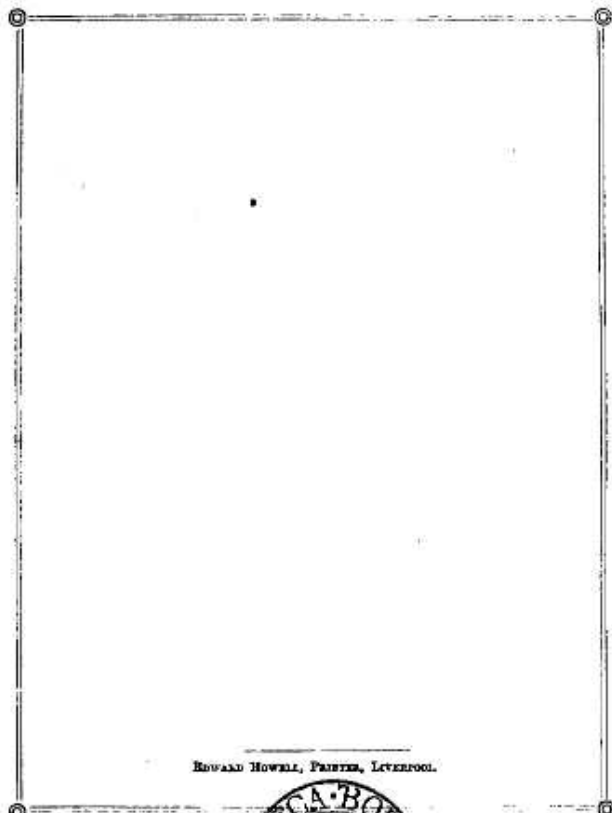
BY THE REV. J. S. HOWSON, M.A.,

PRINCIPAL OF THE LIVERPOOL COLLEGIATE INSTITUTION, JOHN AUTHOR OF "THE  
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Second Edition.

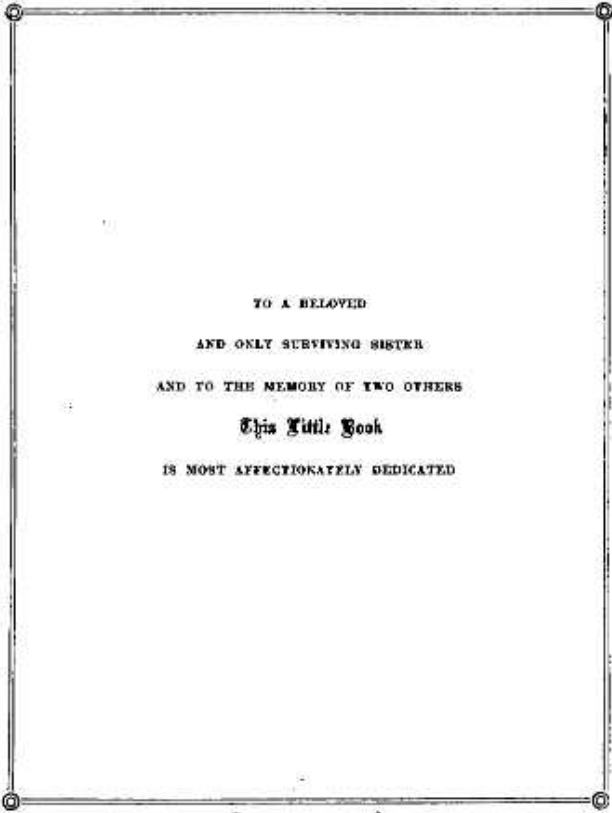
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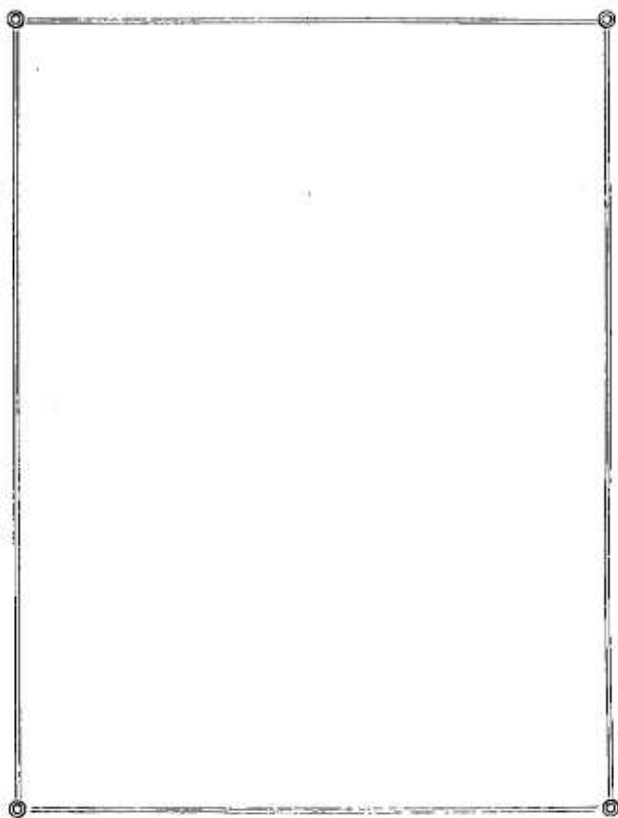
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TO A BELOVED  
AND ONLY SURVIVING SISTER  
AND TO THE MEMORY OF TWO OTHERS  
*This Little Book*  
IS MOST AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED





## Preface.

**I**N a Winter which has begun with unusual inclemency, most of us (except those who are very young) are looking forward with something like impatience to the warmer seasons,—to the “Spring Blossoms,” the “Summer Flowers,” the “Autumn Sheaves,”—which we hope to see before the “Winter Wreaths” of Christmas are prepared again.

This little volume, in which I have been asked to write a few words of Preface, is the first of a Series, which are to be named after the Four Seasons, and each of which will contain, like this, both Prose and Verse. The successive numbers will probably be marked by some variety of sentiment and tone. This one contains serious and yet encouraging thoughts, expressed in graceful language and with delicate feeling. What is here printed is to be recommended, particularly for its two lessons of patience and hopefulness in sorrow, and of considerate sympathy for young Children.

There are few persons who have not some “secret grief,” (p. 26.) Some are conscious of a “secret wasting

#### PREFACE.

grief," (p. 75.) This ought to be no subject of complaint. Our experience of life is various, and not accidental. Some forms of discipline are "born of sunshine," while others "are nursed in storms," (p. 98.) When the latter is our lot, we can yet look forward to the time when the "showers" and "breeze" of April, and the "lengthening sun" (pp. 84, 85) shall,

"By slow degrees,  
Re-clothe the trees."

Winter suggests the thoughts of Spring (p. 29) : and reflection on the diversified growths of Spring leads to reflection on the diversity of character among Children, (p. 35.) They are as different from one another as the flowers. The power of sympathizing with them is a great talent. Some are sceptical concerning the sorrows of Children. But such sorrows are very real. "The cup may not hold so much as a larger vessel, but it may yet be full," (p. 52.)

The beginning of a year ought to bring us all, old and young, rich and poor, more near to one another. Serious and pathetic thoughts of the past may blend, to our great advantage, with sanguine hopes of the future. A little book, which even slightly promotes such results, may be very useful and very welcome.

J. S. HOWSON.

LIVERPOOL, Christmas, 1860.