SELECTIONS FROM THE POEMS OF SIR WALTER SCOTT

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Selections from the poems of Sir Walter Scott by A. Hamilton Thompson

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A. HAMILTON THOMPSON

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English Romantic Poets

Selections from the Poems of SIR WALTER SCOTT

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Selections from the Poems of SIR WALTER SCOTT

Edited by A. Hamilton Thompson, M.A., F.S.A.

Cambridge at the University Press 1922



PREFACE

THE publication of this volume, which concludes the series of Selections from English Romantic Poets, has been somewhat delayed for various causes, although the greater part of it was completed as long ago as 1018. The principle of selection has been that which has guided previous volumes, to exhibit the characteristic genius of the author through passages which, so far as possible, are complete in themselves, and may be read independently of the context for the sake of their own mcrits. In the case of Scott, owing to the narrative form of his verse and the close sequence of incidents as parts of a plot woven by a prince of story-tellers, such an attempt can hardly be entirely successful; and somewhat detailed summaries of the contents of the longer poems are given in the notes, so that the circumstances of narrative passages may be clearly understood. While it may be conceded that, in depth of thought and perfection of craftsmanship, Scott is surpassed by his great contemporaries, no English poet, perhaps, has revealed to so many readers the true charm of poetry or the magic of local association; and, if the pieces here printed serve to indicate the causes which made that achievement possible, the purpose of the editor is accomplished.

A. H. T.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, August 1921.

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