IN MEMORIAM
THOMAS BONNAR

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In memoriam Thomas Bonnar by A. L. Simpson

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A. L. SIMPSON

IN MEMORIAM THOMAS BONNAR

Trieste

In Memoriam.

THOMAS BONNAR.

Yours truly
Thomas Bonner

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BY

A. L. SIMPSON, D.D.,
F.S.A., Scot.

EDINBURGH.
1876.

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THOMAS BONNAR.

THAT the relatives and more immediate friends of the late Thomas Bonnar, of the Firm "Bonnar and Carfrae," Edinburgh—so long and honourably connected with the art of Interior-Decoration—should wish to have some permanent memorial of him, however brief, is by no means surprising. It is the natural consequence of the many amiable qualities which he possessed,—qualities which were such as to endear him most to those who knew him best. As a husband and father, he was distinguished by such a tenderness of affection as easily won for him the love and esteem of every member of his household; and to them he has left a memory fragrant with whatever is most dear to the human heart. Those, on the other hand, who, outside the family-circle, were privileged with his acquaintance and confidence, found him a sincere and steadfast friend; while in all his business relations he was singularly straightforward and honourable. These are claims to recollection which are not easily overlooked.

Apart, however, from what he was in his more private relations, there is more than sufficient reason why he should not be allowed to pass away without some commemorative words. In his professional capacity he was long conspicuous and eminent; and the references to some of his principal achievements in the way of interior-decoration, embodied in this memoir, or appended to it, will indicate the important service which he rendered to Decorative Art. An artist by nature, in so far as feeling and proclivity were concerned,—and from his earliest years surrounded by influences tending to strengthen and develop the feeling, yet, through a combination of circumstances, kept back from the pursuit of Art, strictly so-called,—he carried to the execution of his work as a house-decorator, both a higher idea of what that work should be, and a much greater amount of artistic knowledge and skill than had been even thought of before as either necessary or appropriate in that sphere of endeavour. And the consequence of this was, the inauguration of a class and style of work much more intellectual and truly artistic than had been previously exemplified in this country.

In addition to an exquisite feeling for colour in its most delicate gradations, and in those subtle combinations from which come richness of tone and quiet harmony of effect, Mr. Bonnar was gifted with inventive power in no inconsiderable degree; to which he added the attainment of thoroughly matured executive skill. He was conscientiously painstaking