KENTISH LYRICS SACRED, RURAL, AND MISCELLANEOUS

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Kentish Lyrics Sacred, Rural, and Miscellaneous by Benjamin Gough

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BENJAMIN GOUGH

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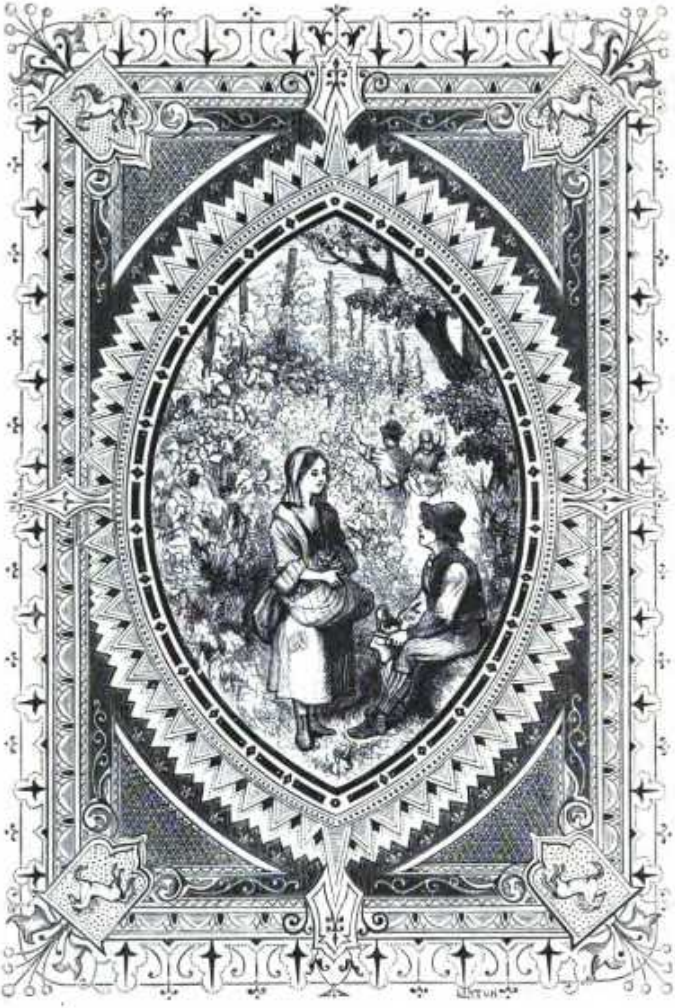

"Ye happy homesteads, and broad orchards, hail!
The cheerful windmill, and the fields of corn,
And fragrant hop with aromatic scent!
Here would I live, and die where I was born,
On some sequestered hill in lovely Kent."—*Page 294.*

KENTISH LYRICS

Sacred, Rural, and Miscellaneous

BY

BENJAMIN GOUGH

AUTHOR OF "LYRA SABBATICA"

"Kent, in the commentaries Cæsar writ,
Is termed the civilest place of all this isle:
Sweet is the country, because full of riches;
The people liberal, valiant, active, wealthy."

SHAKESPEARE.

LONDON

HOULSTON AND WRIGHT

65, PATERNOSTER ROW

MDCCCLXVII.

THIS VOLUME OF

"Kentish Lyrics,"

BY HIS LORDSHIP'S PERMISSION,

IS

DEDICATED TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD HARRIS,

OF BELMONT, KENT,

AS

AN EXPRESSION OF ESTEEM FOR HIS CHARACTER,

AND THE

NUMEROUS PUBLIC SERVICES

WHICH HE HAS RENDERED TO HIS COUNTRY,

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

PREFACE.

THE favourable reception which has been accorded to the Author's former Work, "Lyra Sabbatica," both by the Public and the Press, has induced him to publish the present Volume.

Most of the poems now presented are of recent composition, and only a few have been before printed. They are not, as in the former volume, exclusively Sacred and Devotional, but the book is divided into three parts—Sacred, Rural, and Miscellaneous. Of the sacred poems it need only be said that they are in harmony with Holy Scripture, and so entirely unsectarian that they may be used by all sincere Christians.

The second part contains poems on Country life, and Rural themes, suggested by the ever-renewing variety and proverbial richness of Kentish scenery,

and by the changing Seasons, so little known or appreciated in cities and towns; but, in all their phases, equally beautiful to such as study and admire Nature as the daily exponent of our Divine Creator's love to His creatures, thus enabling them to look through Nature up to Nature's God.

The third part contains a few Poems on Miscellaneous subjects.

The Author commends the Work to the indulgence of his readers, hoping that the perusal of "Kentish Lyrics" may serve to promote reverential love to God in His Word and in His Works, and inspire a keener thirst and relish for whatever is beautiful and pure and good.

"When as the pliant Muse, straight turning her about,
And coming to the land as Medway goeth out,
Saluting the deare soyle, O famous Kent, quoth she,
What countrey hath this isle that can compare with thee!
Which hast within thyselfe as much as thou canst wish,
Thy conies, venson, fruit, thy sorts of fowle and fish,
And what with strength comports, thy hay, thy corne, thy wood:
Not any thing doth want that anywhere is good."

MICHAEL DRAYTON, 1613.

MOUNTFIELD, NEAR FAVERSHAM,
May 15, 1867.