

# **SONGS OF THE RAIL**

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Songs of the Rail by Alexander Anderson

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**ALEXANDER ANDERSON**

**SONGS OF  
THE RAIL**



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G. G. Napier Esq  
with the author's kind regards  
March 28/94

# SONGS OF THE RAIL

BY

ALEXANDER ANDERSON,  
(‘SURFACEMAN’)

AUTHOR OF

‘A SONG OF LABOUR,’ ‘THE TWO ANGELS,’  
‘BALLADS AND SONNETS,’ ETC.

*THIRD EDITION*

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1881

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CARDINGTON STREET  
N.W.

**Dedicated**  
TO  
MY FELLOW-WORKERS  
ON  
THE RAILWAY





## PREFATORY NOTE

TO FIRST EDITION.



SOME critics, in "reviewing" a former work of mine, took exception to the railway poems it contained, as being exaggerated in incident and over-drawn in treatment. In reply to these criticisms, I beg to remark that nearly all my railway poems are founded upon facts, and not a few of them upon incidents that have taken place upon a line on which I work. There are others founded upon accounts of railway accidents, seen in glancing over the papers in my leisure hours ; while others, again, have for basis communications made to me by railway men with whom I came into contact in my daily work. I will frankly admit, however, to having taken advantage now and then—although in a very slight degree—of the

license usually allowed to verse-writers of altering details in order to create a more complete whole.

One word more. I send out this volume, like former ones, in the hope that it may interest my fellow-workers on the railway, and heighten to some degree their pride in the service, however humble may be their position. I trust that its perusal may lead the engine-driver, among others, to look upon his "iron horse" as the embodiment of a force as noble as gigantic—a force which has opened up for commerce and industry a thousand paths that otherwise would have remained undiscovered: a power destined, beyond doubt, to be one of the civilisers of the world.

A. A.