

**HEBER; RECORDS OF THE
POOR; LAYS
FROM THE PROPHETS; AND
OTHER POEMS**

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Heber; Records of the Poor; Lays from the Prophets; And Other Poems by Thomas Ragg

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THOMAS RAGG

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OTHER POEMS.

BY

THOMAS RAGG,

AUTHOR OF "THE INCARNATION," "THE DEITY," "THE MARTYR OF
VERULAM," "SKETCHES FROM LIFE," "LYRICS FROM THE
PENTATEUCH," &c. &c.

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W. DEARDEN, PRINTER, NOTTINGHAM.

TO HER MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,
ADELAIDE,
QUEEN DOWAGER OF ENGLAND, &c. &c.

THE FOLLOWING POEMS ARE
(WITH HER MAJESTY'S KIND PERMISSION)

MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,
BY HER MAJESTY'S OBLIGED HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

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P R E F A C E .

WITH thanks for the liberal encouragement which has been bestowed upon the former works of "the Nottingham Mechanic," the author at length sends forth into the world a volume which he trusts will be deemed *more* worthy of public patronage.

The idea of the chief poem, "Heber," occurred to him many years ago while reading Vaughan's "Church's Expectation." He was somewhat struck with the view taken of the last conflagration by that imaginative author, which view, however wide it might be from truth, was at least *poetical*. A developement of it forms at once the main plot of the poem, and the subject of the story "Nitsol," which occupies the fifth book. Heber, the person from whom the poem takes its title, is represented as one of the escaped from earth's last convulsion. He relates to other inhabitants of "the world to come" incidents or stories of the times of the four great convulsions through which it had passed. It may be asked why the author gave his chief character the name of Heber. The reason was simply as follows. For some years he had vainly enquired of every Hebrew scholar he met with for a word which would serve for a human name and signify "the escaped one." Failing in this object, he used the name Heber as having reference, in its generic

sense, to the whole Hebrew nation. After the poem was announced, through an introduction to his friend, Dr. Michelson, he obtained the word "Nitsol" as the one he wanted; but as it was too late to alter the title of the poem, he modified the plot of the last story in which Heber was intended to act the principal part. Other circumstances have contributed to make that last story different from what it was first designed to be. Another of those afflictive bereavements, with which it has pleased the Ruler of all things to make the author sadly familiar, came upon him when it was just commenced, and somewhat of the nature of his own circumstances was insensibly interwoven with the thread of the story which has thus partaken more of a meditative character. The same thing must plead his excuse for any imperfections which may be found in the last book. A shock of feeling, such as falls to the lot of few individuals, dried up for a time the springs of song; and it was not till the printers were waiting for "copy" that he was induced to commence again. The last 500 lines of the poem were consequently written in about fourteen hours.

Of the smaller poems, a few have appeared in various periodicals; and some two or three were published in connection with the "Incarnation." That pamphlet, now that the Deity (of which it formed one book) is published, it is not the author's intention to reprint.

Spiceal Street, Birmingham.

August 15, 1840.