

**THE BURIAL OF SIR
JOHN MOORE, AND
OTHER POEMS**

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The burial of Sir John Moore, and other poems by Charles Wolfe & Caesar Litton Falkiner

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CHARLES WOLFE & CAESAR LITTON FALKINER

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THE BURIAL OF SIR JOHN MOORE

AND OTHER POEMS

BY
CHARLES WOLFE

*With a Collotype Facsimile of
THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT
of 'The Burial of Sir John Moore,' and
an Introductory Memoir by
C. LITTON FALKINER*

LONDON
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PREFACE

THE scope and purpose of this little volume sufficiently appear from the introductory memoir and need not be defined in a preface. But it is perhaps as well to observe that the inclusion in this collection of Wolfe's poems of all the verses the poet is known to have composed is not to be taken as an averment that each of them is independently worthy of republication. The enthusiasm of the present editor is naturally less highly pitched than that of Wolfe's first biographer ; and the original publication of the school-boy poems on "The Death of Abel" and "The Raising of Lazarus" was perhaps a doubtful exercise of discretion. Though the practice of printing posthumously everything that editorial industry can discover is one that is too commonly abused, it seemed that in dealing with a poetical output so slender as Wolfe's the arguments in favour of including all of his verses that have been already printed were irresistible.

The substance of the "Introductory Memoir" appeared some years ago in the *New Ireland Review*, and the editor has to thank the proprietors of this periodical for permission to utilise the article here. The copy of the "Lines on the Burial of Sir John Moore" in Wolfe's handwriting is reproduced by kind permission of the President and Council of the Royal Irish Academy. The editor's thanks for much kind assistance are especially due to the Rev. John Gwynn, D.D., Regius Professor of Divinity in Trinity College, Dublin.

C. L. F.

September 1903.

INTRODUCTORY MEMOIR

DESCENDED from a family which from the middle of the seventeenth century had been settled in the County Kildare, Charles Wolfe was the son of Theobald Wolfe, of Blackhall, in that county. One of a family of eleven children, and the youngest of eight sons, he was born on September 14, 1791. His father died when Charles was but eight years old, too early to exercise any influence upon the mental development of his youngest son. Through him the poet might trace two vague connections with the atmosphere of Irish rebellion, in which his childhood was passed. It was from Theobald Wolfe that Theobald Wolfe Tone, the founder of the United Irishmen, derived his Christian names; and the poet's father was also first cousin to Arthur Wolfe, Viscount Kilwarden, who, when Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, was murdered in the Emmet rising. Of Wolfe's mother, a daughter of Rev. Peter

Lombard, the memories that remain are faint ; but she seems to have cherished a peculiarly warm affection for Charles, the clinging affectionateness of whose nature made the tie between mother and son even closer than usual. On the death, in 1799, of Theobald Wolfe, his widow removed with her family to England, remaining there for several years, and the poet's education commenced at a school in Bath, to which he was sent when ten years old. Extreme delicacy interrupted his early studies, but ultimately the boy was deemed strong enough to stand the ordeal of a boarding school, and in 1805 he was placed under the care of Mr. Richards, a house-master at Winchester. Here he remained until 1808, distinguishing himself by a special aptitude for the making of Greek and Latin verses, and manifesting even in those early days the same magnetic nature which subsequently charmed all who came within the sphere of its attraction. A year after leaving this school Wolfe entered at Trinity College, Dublin.

Within the eight years which elapsed between his entrance at the University and his departure from Dublin on his ordination in 1817, the period of Wolfe's poetical fertility is almost altogether comprised. None, at least, of the pieces printed by his biographer Archdeacon Russel can be