

**LA TESTE'S
POETICAL GEMS**

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La Teste's Poetical Gems by William Hay Tester

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WILLIAM HAY TESTER

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POETICAL GEMS**

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POETICAL GEMS.

LA TESTE'S, *presid.*
Wm. Fairbairn, Lector
POETICAL GEMS.

SEVENTH EDITION.

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1883.

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Dedication.



TO THE

FREE AND SUBLIME MASTER MASONS OF SCOTLAND

AND THE ADJACENT ISLES,

THIS SEVENTH EDITION OF

Practical Gems

IS FRATERNALLY DEDICATED

BY

THE AUTHOR,

LA TESTE, POET LAUREATE TO KILMOLYMOCK

(FORTY-FIVE), ELGIN.

MOTTO.—*"For we know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the Brethren ; but he who hateth a Brother, abideth in death ; therefore, let us learn to love one another, not in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth ; and if we walk in the Light, then are we Free, and have fellowship one with another."*—ST. JOHN.

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John Brown's Coronach.

TO H. M. THE QUEEN, AND PEOPLE OF DEESIDE.

ALAS ! for our hopes and our high aspirations,
Tho' fair be life's morning, and cloudless its sky,
Ere the shadows of evening have crept o'er the nations,
Where are they, if Death with his dagger be nigh ?
Where are they ?—ay, where ? ever blighted and thwarted,
Like those of our friend, whose demise we deplore—
The leal and the loyal, the gallant departed,
The fond and the faithful—John Brown—nevermore !

Ho ! bonneted pipers, crape-kilted and plaided,
Weird-like and wild, let his coronach be—
The " Flower of the Forest " in its beauty has faded,
The pride of the Sovereign, and glory of Dee.
How grand his career from the day of his grooming,
Till the ebb-tide of life swept the gem from our shore ;
Tho' high in position, still the most unassuming,
The honoured and trusted—John Brown—nevermore !