

**THE POCKET R. L. S.: BEING
FAVOURITE
PASSAGES FROM THE
WORKS OF STEVENSON**

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The pocket R. L. S.: being favourite passages from the works of Stevenson by Robert Louis Stevenson

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ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

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WORKS BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

AN INLAND VOYAGE.
EDINBURGH: PICTURESQUE NOTES.
TRAVELS WITH A DONKEY.
VIRGINIBUS PUERISQUE.
FAMILIAR STUDIES OF MEN AND BOOKS.
NEW ADABIAN NIGHTS.
TREASURE ISLAND.
THE SILVERADO SQUATTERS.
A CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES.
PRINCE OTTO.
THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE
KIDNAPPED.
THE MERRY MEN.
UNDERWOODS.
MEMORIES AND PORTRAITS.
THE BLACK ARROW.
THE MASTER OF BALLANTRAE.
FATHER DAMIEN: AN OPEN LETTER.
BALLADS.
ACROSS THE PLAINS.
ISLAND NIGHTS ENTERTAINMENTS.
A FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY.
DAVID BALFOUR.
WEIR OF HERMISTON.
YAILIMA LETTERS.
FABLES.
SONGS OF TRAVEL.
ST. IVES.
IN THE SOUTH SEAS.

WITH MRS. STEVENSON

THE DYNAMITER.

WITH LLOYD OSBOURNE

THE WRONG BOX. THE WRECKER. THE EBB-TIDE

[See also end of volume]

THE POCKET
R. L. S.

BEING FAVOURITE
PASSAGES FROM
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STEVENSON



NEW YORK
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

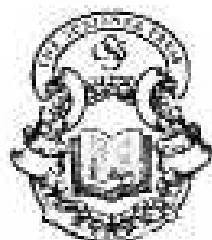
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NOTE

THIS little book has been compiled for the use of those who love Stevenson and call him Master. It conceals no elaborate attempt to condense his writings within a single volume; but to those that know his books, and like them, it may perhaps be found a pleasant companion on a summer's day; recalling, by a favourite passage here and there, the unseen pages on the book-shelf at home.

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SELECTED PASSAGES

WHEN you have read, you carry away with you a memory of the man himself; it is as though you had touched a loyal hand, looked into brave eyes, and made a noble friend; there is another bond on you thenceforward, binding you to life and to the love of virtue.

IT is to some more specific memory that youth looks forward in its vigils. Old kings are sometimes disinterred in all the emphasis of life, the hands untainted by decay, the beard that had so often wagged in camp or senate still spread upon the royal bosom; and in busts and pictures, some similitude of the great and beautiful of former days is handed down. In this way, public curiosity may be gratified, but hardly any private aspiration after fame. It is not likely that posterity will fall in love with us, but not impossible that it may respect or sympathise; and so a man

would rather leave behind him the portrait of his spirit than a portrait of his face, *figura animi magis quam corporis*.

Imprecious
Nature-
effects

THE pleasure that we take in beautiful nature is essentially capricious. It comes sometimes when we least look for it; and sometimes, when we expect it most certainly, it leaves us to gape joylessly for days together, in the very homeland of the beautiful. We may have passed a place a thousand times and one; and on the thousand and second it will be transfigured, and stand forth in a certain splendour of reality from the dull circle of surroundings; so that we see it 'with a child's first pleasure,' as Wordsworth saw the daffodils by the lake-side.

BUT every one sees the world in his own way. To some the glad moment may have arrived on other provocations; and their recollection may be most vivid of the stately gait of women carrying burthens on their heads; of tropical effect, with caves and naked rock and sunlight; of the relief of cypresses; of the troubled, busy-looking groups of seapines, that seem always as if they were being wielded and swept together by a whirlwind; of the air coming, laden with virginal perfumes, over the myrtles and the scented underwoods; of the empurpled hills standing up, solemn and sharp, out of the green-gold air of the east at