THE PILGRIM OF SORROW; BEING A COLLECTION OF ODES, LYRICS, SONGS, SACRED AND JEWISH MELODIES, AND OTHER POETICAL PIECES

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The Pilgrim of Sorrow; Being a Collection of Odes, Lyrics, Songs, Sacred and Jewish Melodies, and Other Poetical Pieces by John Carfrae

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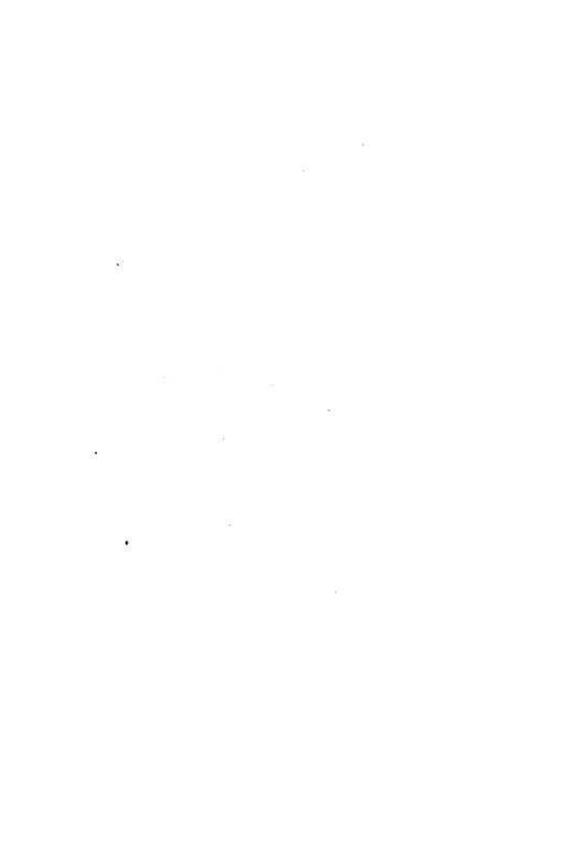


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AND OTHER

POETICAL PIECES.

BY

JOHN CARFRAE.

I have made thy statutes my songs in the house of my pilgrimage,—Paalmist-Though he slay me, yet shall I trust in him.—Jon.

EDINBURGH:
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MDCCCXLVIII.



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PREFACE.

THE Author of the following pages is deeply impressed with a sense of the danger into which he may seem to rush, in bringing the effusions of his Muse before the tribunal of Public Opinion, while so many more highly gifted individuals are daily delighting their readers with the Voice of Song; and he therefore, without deprecating fair criticism, thinks it proper, at the outset, to state, that the Volume now presented to their notice, forms but a small part of his studies during a lengthened retirement from the world, under circumstances the most adverse that can well be conceived to calm reflection and success in intellectual pursuits; while, in so saying, he must not for one moment be thought capable of ingratitude towards those among whom his lot was cast, who did everything in their power to alleviate the painfulness of his situation, and with all of whom he hopes that he has formed the ties of firm and abiding friendship. It affords him, at the same time, the sincerest satisfaction to be able to testify that, sojourning so long as he did among the poor, the weak, the helpless, and the afflicted, he saw and experienced nothing that was not calculated to exalt

the character of the benevolent institutions of his native land, and of human nature, in his estimation.

If any are inclined to find fault with the tone of melancholy which pervades his page, the Pilgrim would assure the objectors that the outpourings of his sorrow are not the emanations of a morbid imagination, nor of a puling sentimentality, but that they are the alas! too genuine offspring of a succession of fatalities, difficulties, and misfortunes, sufficient to have permanently injured a mind, even less delicately constituted.

By those who have not, to some extent, been partakers of similar calamities, he does not and cannot expect his writings to be fully appreciated; but the sons and daughters of affliction are a numerous and wide spread family, and he is not without hope that among such they may meet with some bosoms in which the delineation of his sorrows may occasion a responsive and sympathetic throb.

He may also be permitted to express a hope that the sorrow he attempts to pourtray, will be by his readers found to be a "sorrow not without hope." He wishes no one to sympathise with him in his grief, whom he does not also desire to participate with him in the highest and most holy of consolations. If the strings of his harp are occasionally wet with the tears of frail and suffering mortality, they, at other times, as his readers may see, evoke the tones that breathe and tell of the hopes of immortal joy. It was, at one time, his intention to publish the Sacred Pieces separately from the Love Songs, and other productions of a less serious character, but he acknowledges, frankly, that he is not one of those who think that a belief in the doctrines of Christianity is inconsistent with the indulgence of the tenderest feelings incident to humanity, and that a moderate admiration and enjoyment of the fruits and flowers with which this lower world is graced and beautified are at all inconsistent with the expectations of a future and still sublimer state of existence.

To the contrary, while he lives on this lovely earth, he intends to be henceforth as happy as may be, and the chance of that happiness much depends upon the kindness with which this attempt to please is received by the Public, and the result of which may be that he will hereafter come before them with his Harp strung to a happier tone.

JOHN CARFRAE.

Morningside, Edinburgh, Let July 1848.