

**POEMS AND SONNETS,
MORAL AND
DEVOTIONAL, ON
VARIOUS OCCASIONS**

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Poems and Sonnets, Moral and Devotional, on Various Occasions by John Horseman

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BY

THE LATE REV. JOHN HORSEMAN, B.D.,

ONCE FELLOW AND TUTOR OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, OXFORD,
AND SINCE RECTOR OF HEYDON, ESSEX.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE widow and daughter of the lamented author of these Poems cannot allow them to go forth to the public without expressing their heartfelt thanks to their excellent and esteemed friend, Archdeacon Corbett, who so readily and kindly undertook the task of writing the memoir of his departed friend.

Their grateful acknowledgments are also justly due to the Reverend Vaughan Thomas, whose characteristic benevolence has been likewise most kindly and liberally exerted in their behalf.

To these might be added, the names of many other highly valued friends, whose kindness and sympathy Mrs and Miss Horseman would gratefully record: but whom it were impossible to enumerate without exceeding the bounds of an advertisement. To these respected individuals they can, therefore, only thus generally convey their unfeigned thanks, desiring at the same time to extend their acknowledgments to all who have been pleased to patronize the publication of this little volume.

P R E F A C E.

THE object of sending this volume of Poems to the press, has been to meet the strongly expressed wishes of the author's friends to possess such a memorial of him. Much poetic excellence is not claimed for them; but assuredly they do him honour by the feelings which they express. They were never intended for publication; indeed, the author never sat down deliberately to write verses, but in his walks, or rides, or during the wearisome hours of a sleepless night, he was accustomed to put his thoughts as they presented themselves into verse, and afterwards occasionally to commit them to paper. To his friends they are valuable, and to others who know how to appreciate a warm, guileless, and devout heart (and that such was his heart they abundantly testify), they will doubtless prove acceptable.

The short account of the author's life, which is prefixed, has been drawn up by Archdeacon Corbett, who for the few facts it contains is chiefly indebted to those whose acquaintance with him was of an earlier date,—to the Rev. J. P. Chambers, rector of Swerford, and late fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, who was his schoolfellow at Appleby, and his earliest surviving friend; to the Rev. Francis Laing, of the Mythe, near Tewkesbury, formerly of Balliol College, who lived on terms of great intimacy with the author at Oxford, and who continued his sincerely attached friend to the last. For further information he is indebted

to two other early and esteemed friends of Mr Horseman's own college, the Rev. John Penrose, who was Bampton Lecturer at Oxford in the year 1808, and the Rev. Vaughan Thomas, who kindly supplied from the college-books the dates of his admission and successive degrees and preferments. To another respected friend of the author, the Rev. John Rowlands, fellow of Queens' College, Cambridge, acknowledgments are likewise due for having kindly undertaken to correct the press.

As justification for this attempt to describe Mr Horseman's character, imperfect at it is, and little satisfactory to himself, he hopes he may plead a close intimacy of five and forty years.

S. C.

WESTLEY,
March 1, 1845.

THE LIFE
OF THE
REV. JOHN HORSEMAN.

THE late Reverend JOHN HORSEMAN, rector of Heydon and Little Chishall, and vicar of Great Chishall, was the eldest son of a clergyman of the same name, rector of Souldern, near Deddington, in Oxfordshire, and was born at Souldern on the 20th of June, 1775. He had a brother, James, who was fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, and afterwards successively rector of Whipsnade in Bedfordshire, Little Gaddesden in Hertfordshire, and Middle in Shropshire; the last two of these benefices in the gift of the Bridgewater family.

Their mother was Ursula Ironside, daughter of a gentleman of property, and of a very old family, at Houghton-le-Spring in the county of Durham. The elder Mr Horseman was the son of the Rev. James Horseman, vicar of Greatham, near Stockton-upon-Tees; he died at Greatham in 1790, at the age of 88 years, during 60 of which he had held the vicarage. Mr Horseman, rector of Souldern, who was born at Greatham the 6th of September, 1733, was a fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, and was presented by that society to the rectory.

The subject of this memoir, the elder of the two sons, was placed at the grammar-school of Appleby, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, under the tuition of the Rev. John Drewe, A.M., an excellent schoolmaster, though a somewhat irritable man. To him

his pupils were indebted for an early and practical familiarity with grammar, and a more correct acquaintance with the authors usually read at schools than is generally acquired. Mr Horseman during his school-days, and till middle life, suffered much from ill health; he was subject to frequent severe head-aches, which seldom allowed him to partake of the active amusements of his schoolfellows, for which indeed his excessive short-sightedness otherwise unfitted him. The hours which were thus spent by others in active sports were by him passed in solitary reading. This habit will no doubt be thought an advantage, when it is remembered that the business of the school demanded quiet application from all alike; but weak health too often interferes with any sustained exertion of the powers of the mind; and it seems that studious as he was, Horseman was not happy in the approbation of his master. For on his offering himself as a candidate for a scholarship at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, a year or two after his leaving school, Mr Drewe entertained so low an opinion of his former pupil's attainments as to deem it necessary, for the character of his school, to write to the president, Dr Cooke, signifying his regret that one so insufficiently qualified should present himself. Mr Drewe, however, had made a most erroneous estimate of his pupil's proficiency; and, perhaps, it too often happens that a schoolmaster overlooks quiet, persevering, application in a sickly or diffident boy, while he exults in the progress of those whose powers are more showy, but less real. Horseman not only obtained the scholarship, but went through the examination with much credit; and when Dr Cooke, who never allowed himself to open any letter respecting the candidates till the election was over, read this unfavourable representation, he declared himself as much astonished, as poor Horseman was hurt. Indeed, it was an injury, as he thought it, which during his whole after-life was bitterly remembered by a sensitive