

**ENGLISH LYRICS: A
COLLECTION OF
ENGLISH POETRY
OF THE PRESENT DAY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649574698

English Lyrics: A Collection of English Poetry of the Present Day by Robert H. Baynes

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ROBERT H. BAYNES

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ARRANGED BY THE

REV. ROBERT H. BAYNES, M.A.

Editor of the "Lyra Anglicana"

Library of
Congress

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TO THE RIGHT REVEREND
THE LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD,

Chancellor of the Most Noble the Order of the Garter,

IN

Grateful Memory of many Kindnesses,
With deep Respect and Reberent Affection,

THIS COLLECTION

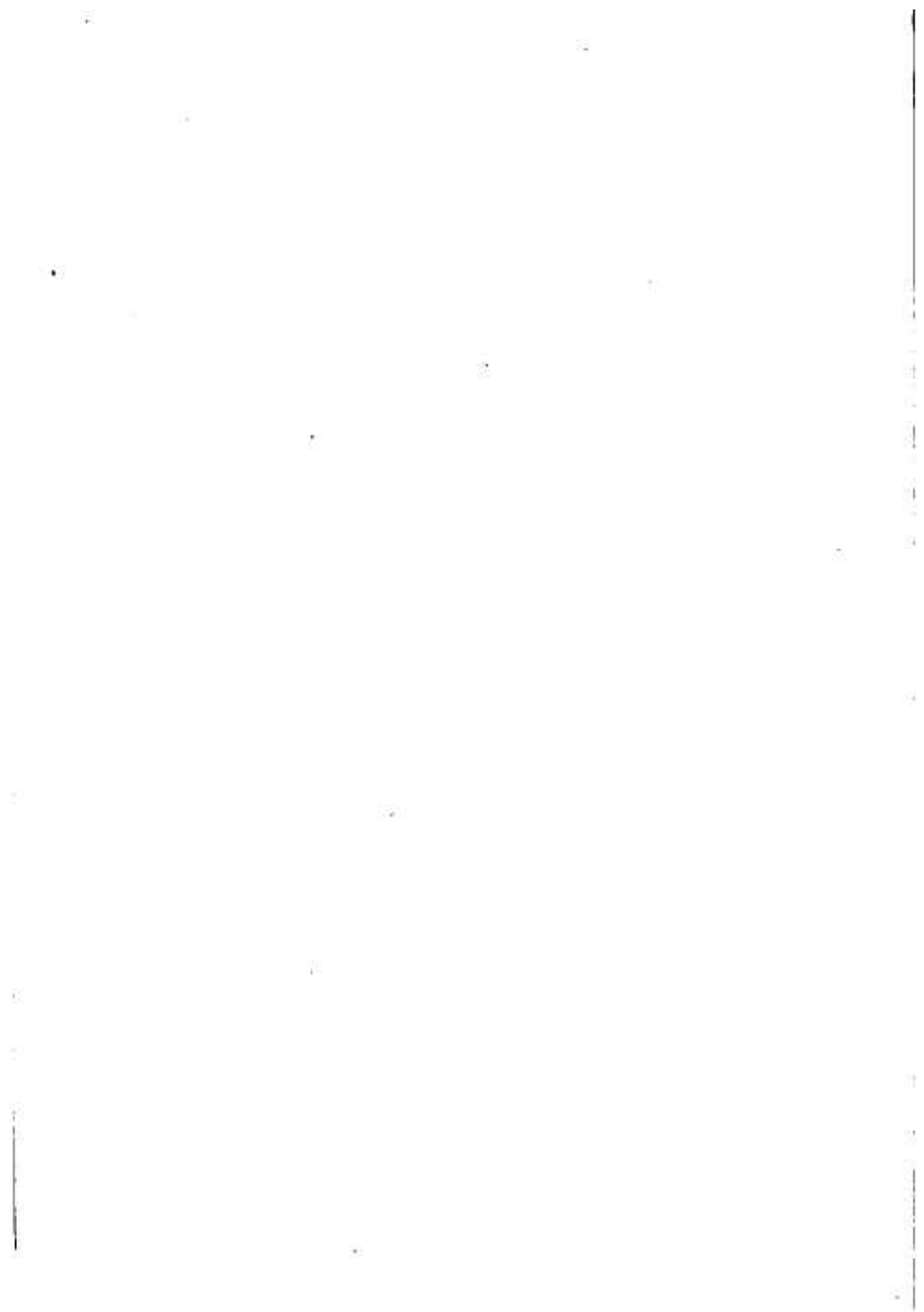
OF

English Lyrics,

WITH HIS LORDSHIP'S PERMISSION,

IS INSCRIBED.

395605





P R E F A C E.

THE following Collection of "English Lyrics" is intended as a companion volume to "Lyra Anglicana." The very large measure of success which attended the publication of the "Lyra" suggested the idea of the present Book, whilst it abundantly confirmed the remarks I there ventured to make as to the value of really good Hymns, and their abiding influence on the Heart and Life. And it is because I have so deep and growing a conviction of the power of this influence, that I regard it as no light privilege to have been permitted in any degree either to awaken or strengthen, in earnest and thoughtful minds, the sense of its real and practical importance.

The greatest Christian Poet of our land and age has sung to us of those who, amid toils and sorrows,—

“Ply their daily task with busier feet,
Because their secret souls a holy strain repeat.”

And this language is no exaggeration whatsoever. There is a marvellous power of consolation and of strength about true Poetry, lighting up as it does, with its own special brightness, that which often seems to be material and commonplace, and bringing home to us, in the way easiest of all to be remembered, the great lessons God would have us learn amid the trials and discipline of our earthly life.

Most men, I suppose, who have any claim to be considered thoughtful at all, have at certain times of their history felt the force of this power of which I speak. Amid the multitudinous forms of beauty and delight in the world around; amid the shadows and the stillness when we go forth to meditate at eventide; in the darkened chamber of sickness, or in the hour of bitter sorrow, who of us does not know what it is to have his soul uplifted, comforted,

or made strong, by the familiar strains of one to whom God has vouchsafed the high gift of Poetry and Song?

And in these days of hurry and excitement, when men's powers and energies are taxed to the uttermost in the various callings they pursue, and when comparatively few have time or even inclination to enter on a long and systematic study of English Poetry for themselves, it can hardly be a useless or unimportant task to gather together, within the compass of a single volume, choice gems of Thought and of Expression, which may serve to gladden many a weary hour, and suggest ideas of Beauty and of Truth.

The special feature of the Collection now offered to the reader consists in the fact that a large number of the Poems appear for the first time in print, while the rest, so far as I know, have never as yet found a place in any other volume, excepting the Authors' own publications, from which they have, by kind permission, been extracted.

It only remains for me to acknowledge, with