

**VOICES FROM THE  
CROWD; AND  
OTHER POEMS**

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Voices from the Crowd; And Other Poems by Charles Mackay

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**CHARLES MACKAY**

**VOICES FROM THE  
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VOICES FROM THE CROWD ;

AND

Other Poems.

BY

CHARLES MACKAY, LL.D.,

AUTHOR OF THE "SALAMANDRINE," "THE LEGENDS OF THE ISLES,"  
ETC. ETC.

THIRD EDITION.



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TO

WILLIAM HENRY ASHURST, ESQ.,

AS A SLIGHT TESTIMONIAL OF PERSONAL REGARD, AND AN EXPRESSION OF CORDIAL  
GRATITUDE FROM "ONE OF THE CROWD," FOR AIDS ATTEMPTED  
TO THE GREAT CAUSE OF HUMAN PROGRESS,

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE INSCRIBED.

BY HIS SINCERE FRIEND,

THE AUTHOR.

## PREFACE.

---

THE author of the following verses does not intend to enter, in this place, into any arguments, to prove the fitness of political themes for the purposes of the poet. Merely party themes may be unpoetical; but there are politics higher and purer than parties, which he, for one, will never allow to be beyond the scope and sympathies of Poetry. The great cause of Human Progress in intellectual elevation, virtue, and happiness, has required at every period of the world the support of earnest and thinking men. In this day it is more especially the duty of those who claim to be the teachers of the people—and if the man of letters be not a teacher of the people he has mistaken his vocation—to aid, by whatever means may be in their power, the progress of mankind from an imperfect into a higher and better civilisation. With this object, not because he has arbitrarily or for any purposes of popularity thought fit to devote himself to the task, but because he could not choose but utter that which was in him, the following verses were written, and are now published. Whatever, in an artistical point of view, may be

their demerits, they were not undertaken idly. On the contrary, the author devoted his best energies to them, with a hope that they might be useful in some degree, however humble, in aiding the advancement of many great questions that are now before the public in those stages of development, when the IDEA transforms itself into the FACT, and the ASPIRATION into the REALITY. Good or bad, they were the best utterance he could find at the time, or that he can find now, and as such they are offered to the consideration of those who have faith in humanity, and who look upon poetry as something better than a pastime for the idle, or an amusement for the thoughtless.

A portion of them—about one-third—have from time to time appeared in "THE DAILY NEWS," and two or three others have seen the light elsewhere in a fugitive shape.

The favour with which they have been received is an earnest that they have not been written altogether in vain. Those now published for the first time are imbued with the same principles. To those correspondents, known and unknown, who from various parts of the country, and from the other side of the Atlantic, have encouraged him with their sympathy and approval, the author can but say how great a reward they have bestowed, and what an incentive to deserve it better in future efforts they have afforded him.

JUNE 18th, 1846.



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VOICES FROM THE CROWD.

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CLEAR THE WAY.

MEN of thought ! be up, and stirring  
Night and day :  
Sow the seed—withdraw the curtain—  
CLEAR THE WAY !  
Men of action, aid and cheer them,  
As ye may !  
There 's a fount about to stream,  
There 's a light about to beam,  
There 's a warmth about to glow,  
There 's a flower about to blow ;  
There 's a midnight blackness changing  
Into gray ;  
Men of thought, and men of action,  
CLEAR THE WAY !