

# **SONGS AND FABLES**

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Songs and Fables by William J. Macquorn Rankine

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**WILLIAM J. MACQUORN RANKINE**

**SONGS  
AND FABLES**





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# SONGS AND FABLES

BY

WILLIAM J. MACQUORN RANKINE

LATE PROFESSOR OF CIVIL ENGINEERING AND MECHANICS IN THE  
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

*WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY T. B.*

Second Edition



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1874

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THOSE who enjoyed the personal intimacy of the late Professor Rankine—and the circle was not a narrow one—will, it is thought, be glad to have the means of recalling some of the songs which they can no longer hear from him, though his voice and manner lent a charm which the printed page cannot restore.

Those who knew him from his graver works only, may be surprised, but it is hoped will not be disappointed, to find that a genius for philosophic research, which made his name known throughout the whole scientific world—and the labours of a life devoted chiefly to directing others, from the chair, and by the press, how to follow his steps—were not incompatible with the playful, genial spirit which brightens the following pages.

The first of the Songs may be taken as the meeting-point of science and humour:—the last possesses a melancholy interest, from having been written very



shortly before his death, when failing health and eyesight seem to have revived a longing for the scenery and simple pleasures of his childhood.

Three of the Songs have already been published in *Blackwood's Magazine*, whose proprietors have kindly consented to their re-appearing in the present volume. One or two have been issued separately, along with their airs and accompaniments; and some others will probably be published in that form, for the use of those to whom the music is an essential or principal attraction.

The Fables explain, in a mode not attempted by archæologists, the origin and meaning of some of our old and popular sign-boards. The illustrations attached to them, from the well known pencil of a gifted lady connected with the same University, will serve to enliven a humour which some readers might consider dry.

May, 1874.

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