

**MANY MOODS, A
VOLUME OF VERSE.
[LONDON-1878]**

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Many Moods, a Volume of Verse. [London-1878] by John Addington Symonds

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JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS

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A VOLUME OF VERSE

BY

JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS

AUTHOR OF 'RENAISSANCE IN ITALY' 'STUDIES OF THE GREEK POETS' ETC.

'The song is to the singer, and comes back most to him'



LONDON

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1878

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TO

THE HON. RODEN NOEL.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

From many poems in manuscript I have chosen enough to make the volume I dedicate to you. It has always seemed to me that there are some thoughts which a writer, who dares not claim the sacred name of poet, may express better in rhyme and metre than in prose, and that the verses so produced have a certain value. This is my excuse for the present publication. I have, however, a deeper and more personal motive. Condemned by ill health to long exile, and deprived of the resource of serious study, I wish to gather up the fragments that remain from stronger and it may be happier periods of life, in order that some moods of thought and feeling, not elsewhere expressed by me in print, may live within the memory of men like you, as part of me.

I have tried to preserve a certain unity of tone by restricting myself mainly to the themes of Love, Friendship, Death, and Sleep. For the same reason I have given the preference to metres adopted from the Italian—to terza rima,

the octave stanza, the sonnet, and rime royal based upon the Florentine Ballata.

Such as are these poems, written at different times and under very varied conditions during the last fifteen years, I now offer them to you, in token of a friendship founded upon sympathies of no common strength or quality. You who are poet, metaphysician, and critic, will not overrate them; though I dare flatter myself that your kindness will greet them in words like these :

Had my friend's Muse grown with this growing age,
A deaver birth than this his love had brought,
To match in ranks of better equipage.

I am yours ever,

JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS.

DAVOS PLATZ : *April 2, 1878.*

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