

**SELECTED POEMS
FROM THE WORKS OF
THE HON. RODEN NOEL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649700769

Selected Poems from the Works of the Hon. Roden Noel by Percy Addleshaw

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PERCY ADDLESHAW

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FROM THE WORKS OF
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SELECTED POEMS
FROM THE WORKS OF
THE HON. RODEN NOEL
WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL
AND CRITICAL ESSAY
BY PERCY ADDLESHAW

WITH TWO PORTRAITS

LONDON: ELKIN MATHEWS
MDCCCXCVII

PR
5111
A17
1897

To
THE LADY VICTORIA BUXTON

I DEDICATE

MY SHARE IN THIS VOLUME

UNDERTAKEN AT HER REQUEST

866730

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	xi
AT HIS GRAVE	45
LAMENT	48
DARK SPRING	50
NIGHT AND MORNING	52
A TOMB AT PALMYRA	56
DEAD	58
THE KING AND THE PEASANT	62
"A MILK-WHITE BLOOMED ACACIA TREE"	64
MOUNTAIN LYRIC	65
EARLY PRIMROSE	67
SLEEP	69
IN THE CORSICAN HIGHLANDS	71
ONLY A LITTLE CHILD	78
GOD'S CHILD	82
MUSIC AND THE CHILD	84
NATURE AND THE DEAD	95
THE TOY CROSS	101
AZRAEL	102

CONTENTS

	PAGE
A SOUTHERN SPRING CAROL	108
ALL SAINTS, AND ALL SOULS.	115
VISION OF THE NIGHT	118
IN LONDON	119
DEATH	124
GUARDIAN ANGELS OF CHILDREN	127
LAST VICTIMS FROM THE WRECK OF THE "PRINCESS ALICE"	132
CHILDREN AND THE WOODS	137
LEAD ME WHERE THE LILY BLOWS	140
"THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE"	143
CHRISTMAS EVE	145
"THE CLOUD MAY SAIL THERE"	148
"THE DESERT SHALL BLOSSOM AS THE ROSE"	150
FLOWER TO FLOWER	153
VALE!	156
THE WATER-NYMPH AND THE BOY	158
A VISION OF THE DESERT	168
SUSPIRIA	180
WILD LOVE ON THE SEA	193
NOCTURNE.	196
"AH! LOVE YE ONE ANOTHER WELL!"	198

ILLUSTRATIONS

— PORTRAIT OF RODEN NOEL FROM A PHOTOGRAPH
BY HOLLYER OF THE DRAWING
BY RICHMOND

DITTO, FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MENDELSSOHN

P R E F A C E

It is related of Christian that as he drew near to the House Beautiful "he entered into a very narrow passage . . . and looking very narrowly before him as he went, he espied two lions in the way." Fortunately, as he pondered the advisability of retreating, he was reassured by Watchful crying out that the beasts were chained. I venture on the task of writing a preface to this collection of lyrics with feelings much the same as Christian's when the supposed danger first threatened him; but I know the two lions that eye my path are neither chained nor easily avoided. To speak plainly, it is over difficult to write concerning the

P R E F A C E

work of a friend in such a manner as to be at once critical and just. There is for instance a temptation to overpraise, especially if the work noticed lack its full share of popularity. And it often happens that readers led on by the critic's enthusiasm are apt to become disgusted when the high hopes raised are not realized, to ignore real merit if it seem to fall short of the most exalted standard. Thus is a grave injustice done to him and them. But if this error be avoided there is yet another and more fatal one. The attempt to be sternly moderate, to allow all objections more than their due weight, may perhaps lead students to draw the conclusion that the poet or essayist is after all of no great importance. Thus again, and this time more seriously, because more permanently, is a great injustice done to him and them. I do not pretend to have avoided the difficulties that I have so keenly feared. Sins of omission and commission are mine; but I have striven zealously and can only hope, now, that I have been in some measure successful.

For Roden Noel was a man to whom I owed much, a man whom no one could meet without