

**FIFTY YEARS'
RHYMES AND
REMINISCENCES**

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Fifty Years' Rhymes and Reminiscences by A. C. B.

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A. C. B.

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A. C. B.

ABERDEEN: 1880.

AMR 9317

INTRODUCTORY.

WHO'E'ER should hap to read this book,
 I trust will kindly overlook
 Its faults and failures ; though they're many—
 Few are the books that have not any.
 Though it for fame has not been printed,
 Yet have I gathered them as hinted,
 Through many long and changeful years
 Of joys and sorrows, smiles and tears ;
 From childhood's hours to manhood's prime
 I've set down here and there a line.
 The power of friendship has been strong,
 Though faint my power to please in song ;
 Still here my thoughts I've put in rhyme,
 Some new, some from the olden time.
 Though not a serious undertaking,
 There has been pleasure in the making.
 I add a few of father's rhymes,
 Reminding me of good old times,
 And other strains I've hoarded long,
 The gifts of friends in early song.
 Some were received with loving letters,
 Which bound my heart in pleasing fetters ;
 Of such were " Hope " and " I Would be Thine,"
 While some on our album's pages shine.
 " Come Share my Cottage," sent with pleasure
 To one esteeming it a treasure.
 " The Blind Boy " also found a place,
 As bringing back a vanished face ;
 And one was translated by a friend—
 " The Minstrel's Curse," with its mournful end ;
 Some, mere recollections, here I trace,
 Whate'er may be thought of their resting-place.

Who'er may think this book worth reading,
 I hope will listen to my pleading ;
 I wish that all may find some pleasure
 Who read these rhymings at their leisure.

LINES SENT TO A. C. B. BY A FRIEND, IN REFERENCE TO
 "FIFTY YEARS' RHYMES AND REMINISCENCES."

As in a day when Nature shows in many moods—
 The glory of the summer morning, calm and still,
 Anon, the gathering clouds, the shower,
 And still again the sunshine,
 Till, having sped the changeful hours,
 The evening closes in a dreamy hush,
 Still deepening to the quiet rest
 Of "summer midnight" ;
 So, gentle friends, in these my varied rhymes,
 See mirrored, though with untrained hand,
 The various moods of life's eventful day—
 The "rosy hope" of opening youth,
 The splendour of a manhood's strength ;
 The dawn of love, the "fitful fever,"
 The heartaches and the joys, and the incessant change
 That marks the lot of man,
 Till now, in peaceful leisure,
 "Towards evening" and the day "far spent,"
 I gather up, and not untenderly,
 These rhymes of bygone years ;
 Not for the critic's glance, or for the curious eye,
 But that the strains are precious which were love
 inspired,
 And that we fondly cherish what the mind and heart
 most felt and mused upon.

J. C.

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