

**LIFE AND POEMS OF
HENRY ANDERTON,
OF WALTON-LE-DALE**

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Life and poems of Henry Anderton, of Walton-le-Dale by Henry Anderton

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PREFACE.

It is matter both of interest and instruction, when studying the history of the great movements which have shaped the course of the world's thought and action, to know something of the great actors, the leading minds, the master spirits, who led those movements. For truly the men are the best illustrations of their work. Interesting indeed it is to know the life and temper of Luther, and to observe its influence upon his time and work; and of our own Latimer, and the martyr-witness which he left us; to read the memoir of Stephenson—that man of the north, whose genius and labours have wrought such a mighty change in the commercial position of his country; to know something of that noble Englishman, the large-hearted Wilberforce, the champion of freedom on British soil; and deeper and stronger still than any of these, is the interest which every Christian man feels in the life and deeds of Him, the Holy One, who came “to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.”

And so, in the history of Total Abstinence, stands out in striking clearness the eager form of HENRY ANDERTON; a man whose poetry, earnestness, and eloquence, not less

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than the great kindness of his heart, have endeared his memory to all earnest and loving men.

Born, too, in the lovely Lancashire village of Walton-le-Dale; nursed by the banks of its beautiful river,—where stood once the hut of the ancient Briton; where the Roman formed his camp; a spot which has been the theatre of important events in our national history; whence has gone forth many a good man and true, who has done work in the world, and many another who is doing it still,—his life cannot fail to be of deep interest to some of us. There he spent his early days; there he fought some of the noblest struggles of his life; and there, now he is gone, rests all that remains of him, in the quiet churchyard grave.

But the dearest of all causes to our hearts should be the cause of truth—*truth*, the very germ of all life—*truth*, the very attribute of the Eternal. And when, amidst mistakes, ignorance, and misrepresentations, such different impressions of Anderton prevail, it is due to those who knew him—to those who bear his name—those of his own family and kindred—that some true and authentic memoir of him should be published, by those whose position and knowledge of him enable them to fulfil the task.

For these reasons, his relatives have given this volume to the world. It comes as a light upon the early history of Total Abstinence; it comes as an offering cast upon the altar of Truth; it comes as a loving tribute to the memory of a good man.

Q.

NOTE.

It was originally intended to publish a volume which, while it refuted the many errors contained in Mr. Grubb's edition, would give an authentic account of the life and times of Henry Anderton. The gentleman who was engaged in this work, and who had almost completed it, has rested from his labours; and, as many friends had been earnestly looking forward to the promised volume, these short memoirs have been somewhat hastily put together, and are now sent out to the public, together with the poems, in the hope that they may be instrumental in advancing the great and good cause of Total Abstinence.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE BURY ABSTINENCE SOCIETY respectfully record their sense of the value of the services of the late Mr. HENRY ANDERTON to the cause of Temperance—both by the living voice and the pen of poetic fire—in the early struggles of the great moral movement of the age. They desire to express their sincere sympathy with the bereaved family; and, in veneration of the departed, they shall ever cherish a sacred regard for the widow and the fatherless.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Preface	iii.
Contents	vii.
Life... ..	1
A Visit to the Grave of Henry Anderton	17
A Short Sketch by his only surviving Sister	22
<hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/>	
An Appeal for Liberty to go to Preston	26
Ah! woe is me	32
An Assiguation	40
Art thou not dear unto my Heart!	43
A Republican Song	54
A Bran-new Electioneering Song for Preston	60
A Peep at Whig Legislation	62
A Temperance Song	82
A Farewell to Jerry	83
A Peep into the Tap-room	89
A Publican's Threat	91
An Appeal to Drunkards	94
A Warning to Maidens	106
A Farewell to the Public-house	107
Ambrose Brook's Thirteenth Teetotal Birthday	112
Do. Sixteenth do.	113
Do. Twentieth do.	114
An Address to a Teetotaler	118
An Appeal to the Friends of Zion	125
A Temperance Hymn	131
Albion! thy Friends have Cause to Mourn	142
A Peace-egg Song	164
A P.S.	169
A New Peace-egg Song	171