

**POEMS
AND SONGS**

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Poems and Songs by John Harvey

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JOHN HARVEY

**POEMS
AND SONGS**

POEMS AND SONGS

BY

JOHN HARVEY,

GIRVAN.

FIRST EDITION.

GLASGOW :
JOHN COSSAR, "PRESS" BUILDINGS, GOVAN.
1891.

LOAN STACK

PR4759
H38A17
1891

P R E F A C E .

IN presenting this little Volume of Poems to his patrons, the Author is conscious of much imperfection. The verses include many boyish compositions which he would have omitted but for an expressed desire that they should have a place in the collection. He ventures, nevertheless, to hope that the book will find appreciative readers, not only among the patrons at whose request it has been compiled, but among verse-lovers generally, who are enjoined to temper criticism with a due regard to circumstance.

GLASGOW, *July*, 1891.

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Poems and Songs.

THE RETURNED EMIGRANT.

[The following lines are supposed to have been written on the return of an emigrant who had left Girvan *en route* for California at the time of the gold fever forty years ago. At that time a very old Established Church stood at the head of Hamilton Street, better known as the Kirk Brae. A number of years ago it was demolished, and a new one of the modern style built nearly opposite it in Montgomery Street. Great changes had taken place otherwise, and no doubt after a lapse of forty years the returning emigrant must have been exceedingly astonished at the changes in his native town.

Girvan ! my home, the pride of all the West,
Where, when a babe, I suckled on the breast,
And, when a child, I'd ramble on the green,
And shout with joy at each bright varied scene !
No pensive thoughts ere brooded o'er me then—
Nor mental cares that oftentimes torture men ;
No sorrows came my young life to destroy,
But all was full of bright, spontaneous joy.

I was a tender mother's only child,
On whom her sweet affections fondly smiled,
Until the sting of death, one winter's day,
Came to the door and took her soul away.