

# **MODERN IRISH POETS**

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Modern Irish Poets by W. J. Paul

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**W. J. PAUL**

**MODERN  
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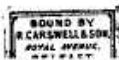
You value a Casket  
or market Basket

For sake of the Jewel or food you find:

So there, I wonder;

How covers under,

The one or other, to suit your mind?



# Modern Irish Poets,



BY

W. J. PAUL.



" Blessings be with them and endless praise  
Who gave us nobler loves and nobler cares;  
The poets, who on earth have made us heirs  
Of truth and pure delight by heavenly lays." — Wordsworth.



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LOAN STACK

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## PREFACE.



IN submitting this little volume to the public, I have no apology to make for treading an oft-trodden path.

No work of the kind on Irish poets, I believe, has hitherto been published. If apology were needed, it would be because of the limited character of the work, for I have not been able, in the space at my disposal, to include all the living Irish poets. It is my opinion that at no period in the history of Ireland have we had so great poets, and so many of them, as at the present day. I have good grounds for saying that the demand for Irish poetry is on the increase. In corroboration of this fact we have only to reflect on the multitude of volumes recently issued by Irish poets, and *now out of print*. During the last two decades these amount to several hundreds. It is not unnatural, therefore, to expect that readers who have enjoyed so much the works of our native bards and bardesses should wish to know a little about the writers themselves. In these sketches I have endeavoured to place a little information of this kind, in a condensed form, within their reach.

In making the selections, I have not been able in every case to give what I believed to be the best poem of each author. Indeed in many cases the length, or other circumstances, rendered it absolutely impossible for me to do so, but I believe there runs throughout every poem in the book—in a greater or less degree—that undefinable, but no less real, something which is never absent from true poetry.

W. J. PAUL.

Limerick, 1894.

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