

**SONNETS AND  
POEMS. DEDICATED  
TO THE QUEEN**

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Sonnets and Poems. Dedicated to the Queen by Earl of Rosslyn

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**EARL OF ROSSLYN**

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TO THE QUEEN**



# SONNETS AND POEMS

BY THE  
EARL OF ROSSLYN

*DEDICATED TO THE QUEEN*

London  
REMINGTON & CO.  
HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN  
1889

PR  
6035  
07556

*Deal with us gently, ye who read!  
Our largest hope is unfulfilled—  
The promise still outruns the deed—  
The tower, but not the spire, we build.*

*Our whitest pearl we never find;  
Our ripest fruit we never reach;  
The flowering moments of the mind  
Drop half their petals in our speech.*

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.



1153572

*And thus, as in memory's bark we shall glide,  
To visit the scenes of our boyhood anew,  
Though oft we may see, looking down on the tide,  
The wreck of full many a hope shining through;  
Yet still, as in fancy we point to the flowers  
That once made a garden of all the gay shore,  
Deceiv'd for a moment, we'll think them still ours,  
And breathe the fresh air of life's morning once more.*

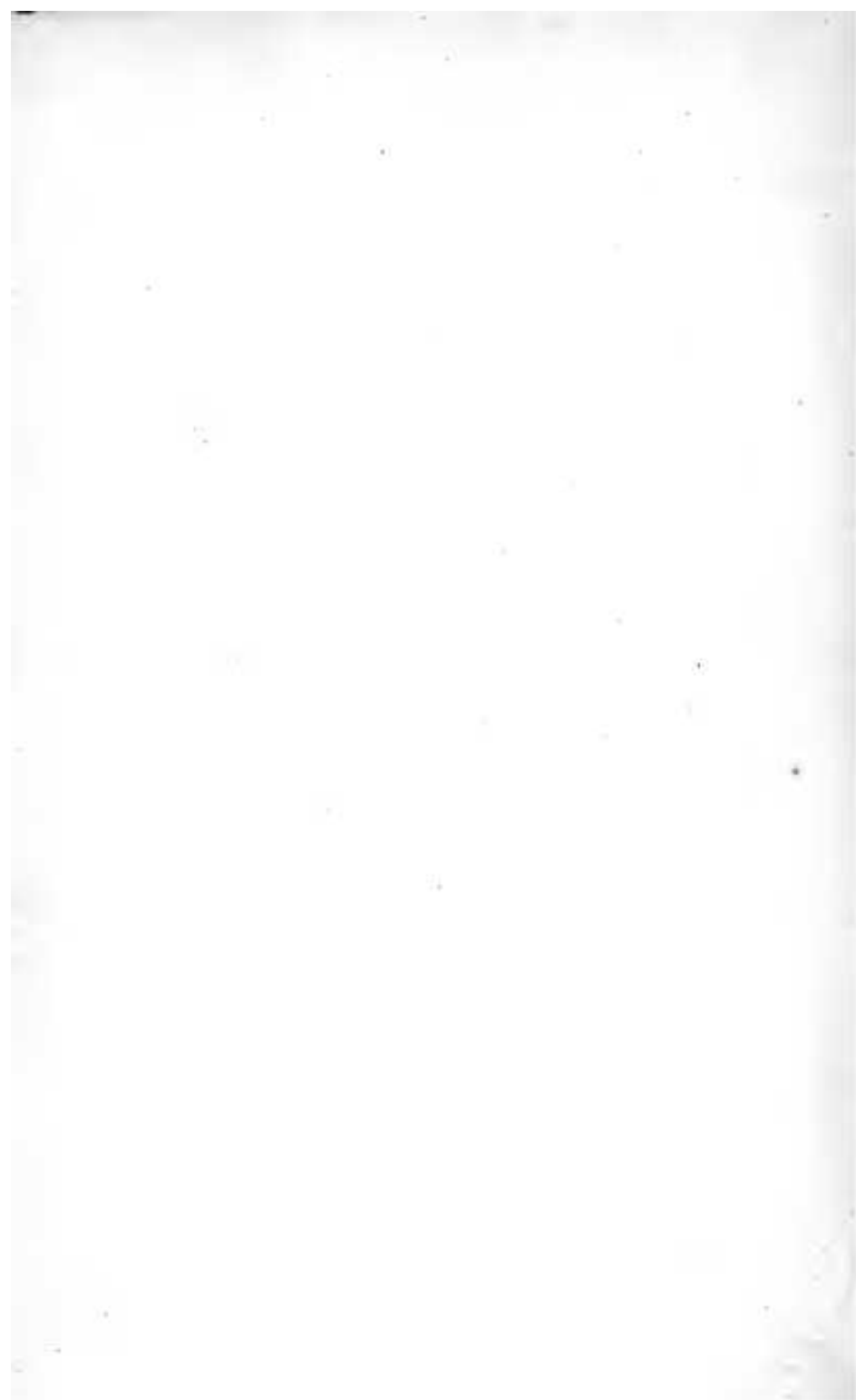
MOORE'S Irish Melodies.

TO  
VICTORIA, REGINA ET IMPERATRIX

*If I should write and praise the Sun's rich ray,  
And say it lights up all the gloomy ground,  
And warms the heart and life of all around,  
And makes dull labour into cheerful play ;  
Turns dark to bright, grave thought supplants by gay,  
Where nothing flourishes, bids all abound,  
And with an equal warmth for all is found,  
I should but laud God's gift of every day.  
So must I sing, as rivalling the Sun  
In wide extended Empire, and in good  
That reaches all, and comforts all, Thy Fame  
Who rulest half the Globe ; and, thus begun,  
I could not end—such vast and grateful food  
Thy praise supplies !—such love Thy honoured Name !*

ROSSLYN.

November 1889.





## INTRODUCTION

*LORD ROSSLYN, being still an invalid, has not been able to give this volume the final revision which he would have so much desired. He has, however, read through the proofsheets as the book was going to press. Many of the poems have already appeared in print, either in periodicals or in books for private circulation. On the other hand, some of them are quite new, and the book may be considered a more or less complete collection of LORD ROSSLYN'S poetical works. The spirit in which he now gives it to the Public is embodied by himself in the following pathetic note.—*

*When, at the instigation of my friends, I ventured to publish a modest volume of sonnets, the compilation of which had extended over nearly three decades, I felt how inadequate the result was to the time it had occupied, and I trembled lest*

*the parturition of the mountain should in my case, as in so many others, be an accomplished fact. Whether from the kindness of the critics, or the modest nature of the motto which I selected and have retained in the present volume, or the indulgence of my friends, I know not; but true it is that I had to encounter only a too favourable reception, and the whole edition was speedily exhausted. I have since refrained from again tempting the perilous path; but now a lingering and dangerous illness, but half surmounted, warns me that I have only a short space left in which to throw myself upon the consideration of the public. I avail myself of it, not indeed as I could once have done, but yet gratefully and gladly, and yield to those whose better judgment has always been my guiding star, and who have, in this case, urged me to publish some poems as well as my favourite sonnets. Among these "The Jubilee Lyric," printed by the gracious command of Her Majesty, and some translations from Greek, French, Russian, and Italian authors, trifling in themselves, will be found. They are all unworthy of serious consideration; but, as they have rendered many hours of my past life happier and better, I trust they will be accepted as they are meant, to pass an idle moment, and they will assuredly in no instance call a blush to the cheek of either the maiden or the youth who may peruse them. Should it please God to restore me to health,*

*I may, I trust, be excused for hoping that the favour with which these verses may be received will be an inducement to write more.*

‘ROSSLYN.’

*The Editor's share in this volume has mainly been the categorical arrangement of the pieces; and he anxiously hopes that this task, a labour of love, has been fulfilled in a manner that the admirers of the Poet will approve.*

*By gracious permission, this volume is dedicated to Her Majesty the Queen.*

W. EARL HODGSON.

LONDON: November 1889.