

**NOT UNDERSTOOD  
AND OTHER POEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649429837

Not Understood and Other Poems by Thomas Bracken

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**THOMAS BRACKEN**

**NOT UNDERSTOOD  
AND OTHER POEMS**



NOT UNDERSTOOD

AND

OTHER POEMS.

BY

THOMAS BRACKEN.

WELLINGTON, N.Z. :

RICHARD BROWN, Printer and Publisher, Willis Street.

1905.

### PUBLISHER'S NOTE.

---

THE great popularity of "Not Understood," and the prominence given to it by the late Mel. B. Spurr in his very successful Recitals in the Colony, has created a demand for a pocket edition of Tom Bracken's Poems.

"Lays and Lyrics," issued by the same publisher in 1893, has been out of print for some years.

It is hoped, therefore, that this little volume, which will be found to contain all of Mr. Bracken's favourite poems, will supply a long-felt want, and find a ready sale in this Colony.

---

Two or three days before the late Mel. B. Spurr passed away, he was interviewed concerning his work and intentions. Enumerating some of his most successful recitations, he came "finally," to "Not Understood"—"that charming little bit of philosophy by the late Thomas Bracken, which I now give almost every evening. I am hoping to introduce it to an English public some time next year, and I predict for it an instantaneous and unprecedented success." "Man proposes"—and the gifted and genial entertainer little thought, as he wrote those appreciative lines, that he was never again to see his native land.

## INDEX.

|                                 | PAGE. |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Not Understood ... ..           | 7     |
| God's Own Country ... ..        | 9     |
| "Rogers of Eaglehawk" ... ..    | 15    |
| Hurrah for New Zealand ... ..   | 18    |
| Our Pet Kangaroo ... ..         | 20    |
| The Timaru Wrecks ... ..        | 24    |
| How Von Tempsky Died ... ..     | 26    |
| Pax Vobiscum ... ..             | 30    |
| Leah ... ..                     | 32    |
| To Find the Key ... ..          | 34    |
| Annihilation ... ..             | 35    |
| Years Are Stealing ... ..       | 37    |
| Waiting for the Mail ... ..     | 39    |
| Up-a-Daisy! ... ..              | 41    |
| The Brooklet in the Glen ... .. | 44    |
| The Other Side ... ..           | 46    |
| Till I Come Back Again ... ..   | 47    |
| A Winter Lyric ... ..           | 49    |
| The Canterbury Pilgrims ... ..  | 51    |
| Woman's Rights ... ..           | 53    |
| Away With Regret ... ..         | 55    |



## INDEX.

|                                      | PAGE. |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| The Vilest Fiend of All ... ..       | 56    |
| New Zealand Hymn ... ..              | 58    |
| The Tramp of the Fire Brigade ... .. | 59    |
| A Paper from Home ... ..             | 61    |
| The Winds ... ..                     | 62    |
| Old Bendigo ... ..                   | 64    |
| Requiem—Lindsay Gordon ... ..        | 66    |
| Bush Children ... ..                 | 68    |
| Dunedin from the Bay ... ..          | 69    |
| The Beggar's Prayer ... ..           | 71    |
| Spirit of Song ... ..                | 75    |
| Little Violet ... ..                 | 76    |
| Old Letters ... ..                   | 78    |
| Passing through the Gate ... ..      | 81    |
| The Auctioneer ... ..                | 83    |
| Orakau ... ..                        | 85    |
| The Boy and the Year ... ..          | 88    |
| Kaitangata ... ..                    | 92    |
| An Exile's Revorie ... ..            | 94    |
| To Sir George Grey, K.C.B. ... ..    | 98    |
| In Memoriam—W. H. Levin ... ..       | 99    |

# NOT UNDERSTOOD

AND

## OTHER POEMS.

---

### NOT UNDERSTOOD.



NOT understood. We move along asunder,  
Our paths grow wider as the seasons creep  
Along the years; we marvel and we wonder  
Why life is life! and then we fall asleep,  
Not understood.

Not understood. We gather false impressions,  
And hug them closer as the years go by,  
Till virtues often seem to us transgressions;  
And thus men rise and fall, and live and die,  
Not understood.

Not understood. Poor souls with stunted vision  
Oft measure giants by their narrow gauge;  
The poisoned shafts of falsehood and derision  
Are oft impelled 'gainst those who mould the age,  
Not understood.

Not understood. The secret springs of action,  
Which lie beneath the surface and the show,  
Are disregarded; with self-satisfaction  
We judge our neighbours, and they often go,  
Not understood.

---

Not understood. How trifles often change us!  
The thoughtless sentence or the fancied slight  
Destroy long years of friendship and estrange us,  
And on our souls there falls a freezing blight;  
Not understood.

Not understood. How many breasts are aching  
For lack of sympathy! Ah! day by day,  
How many cheerless, lonely hearts are breaking!  
How many noble spirits pass away  
Not understood

Oh, God! that men would see a little clearer,  
Or judge less harshly where they cannot see;  
Oh, God! that men would draw a little nearer  
To one another, they'd be nearer Thee,  
And understood.

