DAVID AND SAMUEL: WITH OTHER POEMS

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David and Samuel: With Other Poems by John Robertson

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JOHN ROBERTSON

DAVID AND SAMUEL: WITH OTHER POEMS

Trieste

POEMS.

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, DAVID AND SAMUEL;

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WITH

OTHER POEMS,

ORIGINAL AND TRANSLATED.

By JOHN ROBERTSON.

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SEELEY, JACKSON, AND HALLIDAY, 54 FLEET STREET. LONDON. MDCCCLIX. 1859

THE CANDID CRITIC TO THE BOOK.

ALAS! the world is broad and high,

*.e

And I have much to do,

Forgive me, miracle, if I

Am all unjust to you.

Your merits are so great, I ne'er Of praising you should tire,

Were I, as much as you are fair,

At leisure to admire.

And miracle, although you be

A miracle indeed,

Yet in this wondrous world we see So many of that breed; So all unnumbered are their names Who claim acknowledgment, We make no question of your claims, But all our praise is spent.

We keep a welcome for his strain Who sang Babe Christabel, Let Glasgow's genius sing again, Whom publishers love well; The sweetly sadly laboured song From Oxford sent we mark, And that "not smooth but clear and strong" Of Eversley's warm clerk.

When he who wears the laurel crown Long musing takes the lyre,
There runs a thrill across the town,
Some mock and some admire.
But with sweet qualms that burst in tears
Full many a breast is stirred,

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THE CANDID CRITIC TO THE BOOK.

As when by quaint King Richard's peers The Knight's Tale first was heard.

If flowers must needs by millions spring, Then some unseen must blush; Some birds must sing unheard that sing A score in every bush. But daisies blow and thrushes sing, Contented though unknown, Proud of the glory of the spring, And careless of their own.

O Poet, build the idle rhyme, If rhymes beset thy brain; We will not call it waste of time, Nor rudely hush the strain. Nature that cares not to exclude, That lets things have their course, Joins to the music of the wood Untutored notes and hoarse. vii

THE CANDID CRITIC TO THE BOOK.

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Be thine the hoarse notes or the sweet, Sing, poet, and God speed thee; For we have leisure to maltreat As little as to read thee. Sing, poet, and account it fame Some passer-by should say, Not waiting to inquire thy name, "How Grubstreet rings to day !"

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