# THE WILD BRIER: OR LAYS BY AN UNTAUGHT MINSTREL

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The Wild Brier: Or Lays by an Untaught Minstrel by Mrs. E. N. Lockerby-Bacon

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# MRS. E. N. LOCKERBY-BACON

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## THE

# WILD BRIER:

OR

# LAYS BY AN UNTAUGHT MINSTREL

MRS. E. N. LOCKERBY-BACON.

The Poet in a golden clime was born,
With golden stars above:
Dowered with the hate of hate, the seorn of scorn,
The love of love.

Dark-browed sophist, come not anear;
All the place is holy ground;
Hollow smile and frozen snear,
Come not here.
— Tennyson.

## FOURTH EDITION.

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# DEDICATION.

## TO MRS. DUNDAS.

# MADAM:

It is with feelings of the deepest gratitude that, by your kind permission, I dedicate to you this little volume—my first essay in the great world of letters. I thank you sincerely for the liberal patronage which you have so generously extended to me; and feel assured that the noble spirit of benevolence which has ever characterized you in the occupation of your present exalted position will induce you to dwell more upon any passages in the work which may meet your approbation than upon such as may prove to be less in accordance with your taste.

I humbly beg leave to congratulate you and His Excellency upon your safe return to our beautiful island, again to exercise over us your gentle sway as the faithful representatives of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria. May it be your province, for years to come, happily to watch over our temporal interests; and, when the onerous duties and responsibilities of life are over, may death, to you, be robbed of all his terrors; and may your eyes gently close in peaceful slumber, to open upon the refulgent splendor of that celestial palace, the radiant center of which is the throne of God.

I have the honor to be, madam, with the most sincere gratitude and the highest respect, your humble and faithful servant,

E. N. L.

# PREFACE.

In presenting this little volume to the public, I feel in duty bound to say a few words to my numerous friends and patrons. In the first place, I would tender my sincere thanks for the liberal patronage I have received; and towards the citizens of Halifax especially, I must ever cherish feelings of the warmest gratitude for the very courteous, and, in many instances, cordial reception which they have given me.

In the second place, it is due to myself to observe that the contents of "THE WILD BRIER" were not written with a view to publication, but simply to gratify an inherent love of poesy, and because, in my devotion to it, my spirit, ofttimes burdened with heavier tasks, ever found a soothing and invigorating relief.

To my esteemed friends, the critics, I would

remark, that these writings are but the thoughts of an inexperienced country girl, who, at the time the book was written, had never seen a mountain, or any more sublime scenery than the corn-fields of Prince Edward Island and the rolling billows of "the blue St. Lawrence" that surround them.

I may also state that only through the urgent solicitations of many personal friends have I been induced to appear before the public in print. I, therefore, cast this little collection of scattered thoughts on the stream of time, with a very faint and humble hope that it may be deemed by at least some of those in whose hands it may be placed as not entirely the fruits of misspent leisure. And if one sad heart beat the lighter for it, or one lone hour be beguiled by its perusal, or one kindred spirit, drinking at the same fountain with its author, bid her "God speed," I will be satisfied, and feel that the feeble effort is amply repaid. But should one little lamb of the fold be strengthened or encouraged in well doing, it will enjoy the blessed assurance that