

**MESSIS VITAE,
GLEANINGS OF SONG
FROM A HAPPY LIFE**

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Messis vitae, gleanings of song from a happy life by John Stuart Blackie

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JOHN STUART BLACKIE

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FROM

A HAPPY LIFE

BY

JOHN STUART BLACKIE

EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF GREEK IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

χαίρετε πάντες.—St. PAUL.

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*To the Students of
The Scottish Universities*

PREFACE DEDICATORY

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS — I dedicate this collection of lyrical fly-leaves to you, because there is not a little in it that owed its inspiration to the contagion of fresh young minds, and to the leisure for cultivating the Muse afforded me by the usage of what, in Scotland at least, I cannot but regard as the happiest of all human avocations, the profession of an Academical teacher. May you learn from these versicles what they are mainly meant to inspire, that reverential communion with Nature, the living poetry of God, that ready sympathy with all that is good in your fellow-beings, and that

unswerving loyalty to the heroic traditions, the sacred shrines, and the heart-stirring melodies of our Scottish fatherland, which are of more value than much Latin and more Greek, and supply the purest atmosphere in which a happy existence and a fruitful activity here below may be achieved.

I am yours,

In the love of the good, the beautiful, and the true,

JOHN STUART BLACKIE.

UNIVERSITY,
EDINBURGH, *October 1886.*

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