

A BOOK OF OLD ENGLISH BALLADS

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A book of old English ballads by Hamilton W. Mabie & George Wharton Edwards

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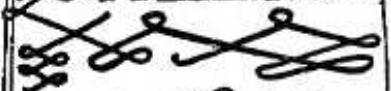
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HAMILTON W. MABIE & GEORGE WHARTON EDWARDS

A BOOK OF OLD ENGLISH BALLADS



A Book
of
Old English
BALLADS



with an
Accompaniment
of
Decorative
Drawings

62

George

Wharton Edwards:

And an Introduction by

Hamilton W. Mabie

New York

Grosset & Dunlap





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June, 1907.



These Drawings are affectionately
Inscribed to
R and F C
by
G. W. E.
1826



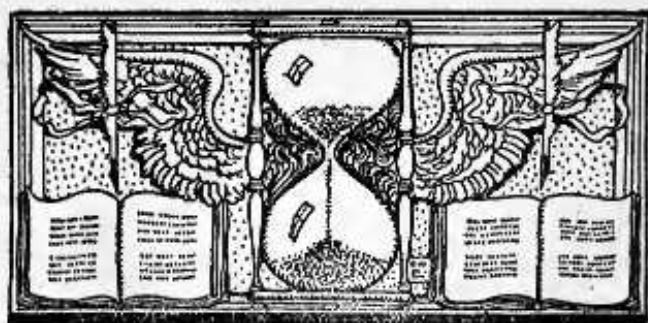


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Introduction

Goethe, who saw so many things with such clearness of vision, brought out the charm of the popular ballad for readers of a later day in his remark that the value of these songs of the people is to be found in the fact that their motives are drawn directly from nature; and he added, that in the art of saying things compactly, uneducated men have greater skill than those who are educated. It is certainly true that no kind of verse is so completely out of the atmosphere of modern writing as the popular ballad. No other form of verse has, therefore, in so great a degree, the charm of freshness. In material, treatment, and spirit, these ballads are set in sharp contrast with the poetry of