

**RUBÁIYÁT OF
SOLOMON, AND
OTHER POEMS**

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Rubáiyát of Solomon, and other poems by Amanda T. Jones

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AMANDA T. JONES

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OTHER POEMS**



*Yours Faithfully
Amanda J. Jones.*

RUBÁIYÁT OF SOLOMON

AND OTHER POEMS.

BY

AMANDA T. JONES

*Author of "Utah," "Atlantis and Other Poems," "A
Prairie Idyl," etc.*

NEW YORK:
ALDEN BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS,
1905.

INSCRIBED

*With immeasurable gratitude
and affection*

TO MY BROTHERS:

Long known among men as
THE REV. RUFUS COOLEY,
AND
WILLIAM COLLINS JONES,

*Lovers of Holiness, Israelites indeed in whom
was no guile.*

A. T. J.



INTRODUCTION.

BY J. N. LARNED,

[Author of "*Seventy Centuries of the Life of Mankind*," and editor of "*History for Ready Reference and Topical Reading*."]]

When a poet invites me to associate my name with her own, in such a volume of verse as this, I cannot decline the honor, even though I must take it by the assumption of an office which I ought not to fill. Except in the modesty of her own feeling, there is no reason for what seems to be my presentation of Miss Jones to readers who know her much better than they can possibly know me. It may be that her song is more widely familiar than her name; since much of it has gone unnamed, in the first instance, to the world, and is cherished lovingly in many memories, waiting for the personal association which this book may afford.

To a considerable public the present collection of Miss Jones's poetical work may reveal a new star in American literature; but the poets recognized her and welcomed her to their company at the beginning, almost, of her published

writing. The little volume, of some twenty years ago, that took a title from its leading poem, "A Prairie Idyl" (issued anonymously, except in a few private copies), drew letters of warm admiration from Whittier, Holmes, Boker, Stoddard, Jean Ingelow, Austin Dobson, and many more, and was reviewed with very hearty appreciation by the foremost critics of the day; but an unfortunate fire destroyed most of the edition and it went into not many hands. It deserved a very different fate; for nothing finer in thought, feeling, imagination, phrasing or melody, is to be found in American verse. The title poem is a perfect nature-picture from the teeming West. Then, by a striking change of note in the next poem, entitled "Service and Sacrifice," the most solemn impressiveness is given to a great religious thought; and that is followed by a delicious modulation into strains of tenderness in the third poem, "Father" (the noblest in the book, for me); and so, throughout, the emotional variations are marvellously wrought.

In imaginative richness and power, but not in sweeter qualities, those poems are surpassed, perhaps, by some which appeared in an earlier volume, written mostly in the years of the civil war, and inspired by the griefs, the hopes, the heroic passions of that trial time. One poem in the older collection, entitled "The Prophecy of the Dead," written in April, 1861, can

never have been read and forgotten by one who had lived through the emotions of that dread month.

It is to be hoped that some day, not distant, will give us a collected edition of the writings of Miss Jones. What we receive now adds largely and importantly to her poetical work, especially in the historical quality which so many of her lyrics have taken from the inspiration of great events. "The Saving of an Empire," dedicated to John Hay, and "Panama," are among the fine poems of recent years which have that historical significance, and which greatly enrich the book.

To say that a permanent high place in American literature belongs to the poems of Amanda T. Jones is to express the judgment of many whose critical opinion has vastly more weight than mine.

BUFFALO, N. Y., May, 1905.

