

A LITTLE BOOK OF HOMESPUN VERSE

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A Little Book of Homespun Verse by Margaret E. Sangster

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BY
MARGARET E. SANGSTER

AUTHOR OF "FROM MY YOUTH UP," "WISDOMS WOMANHOOD,"
"LYRICS OF LOVE," "EASTER BELLS," ETC.

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1911

11-25

THIS BOOK
IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED
TO
SALOME G. HOWELL
WITH WHOM I HAVE WALKED
IN HAPPY COMRADESHIP
SINCE THE DAYS OF THE MORNING-GLOW

WQR 19 FEB '86

The consent of Messrs. Harper and Brothers, of the *Christian Endeavor World*, *Sunday School Times*, *McClure's Magazine* and *Will Carleton's Everywhere* to the publication in this volume of poems which originally appeared in another form has been asked and obtained, and the author wishes to extend her thanks for the courtesy.

FOREWORD

In a certain farmhouse up country between the hall and the living-room I remember to have seen home-made curtains of silk, the work of winter evenings in a house where the mistress had little summer leisure. Bits of silk sewn together in a hit or miss fashion had been woven as they happened to come, into the curtains, and the result was fascinating to children of all ages from eight to eighty. Everybody who stepped within the hospitable doors of the pleasant home had a word of admiration for the silken curtains.

Once upon a time when sojourning in Florida I found myself a guest at an inn remote from traveled paths. Entering the little parlor, heated by an old-fashioned base burner, I came upon a group of nine women. They were absorbed in patch-work, and I was called upon to study the intricacies of coverlets also designed

Foreword

on the hit or miss pattern, for the comfort and adornment of simple homes.

We used, I fancy, to be satisfied with simpler things a while ago than it is our custom to be to-day. I am not counting upon the Gentle Reader's appreciation of my little book of verse, every bit homespun and purposely thrown together without special classification, except as I myself have a preference for random bits that may be picked up at any moment and laid aside at discretion.

The verses in this little book are meant for everyday folk who have an interest in everyday affairs. Love, honor, loyalty, faith and reverence belong to the staple of American life. In the days of my training we were proud to think of our country as inviting to its shores the discouraged, the needy, and, if you choose, the illiterate, from every quarter of the globe. We anticipated a day when the fusion and assimilation of cosmopolitan elements should make our country great and strong, and when the new nation on this side the Atlantic should stand in the van and lead the older nations on. This is still my gospel. I love the plain man, the plain woman; I love little children, and having never