

**HEROES IN RHYME,
AND OTHER
RANDOM VERSES**

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Heroes in rhyme, and other random verses by Osborn Wilkinson

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OSBORN WILKINSON

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AND OTHER RANDOM VERSES

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL OSBORN WILKINSON, C.B.

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PREFACE

IN submitting this work for the indulgent consideration of his friends, the writer would wish to say a few words explanatory of the order in which he has arranged his varied subjects, and of the circumstances under which he embarked in this venture.

He has divided his book into three parts:—In the first division, which is headed "Heroes," he has attempted to record his admiration of some distinguished officers (most of them personal friends) who have rendered invaluable services to their country, and with their gallant deeds he has coupled the splendid prowess of an Indian chaplain, the Rev. J. W. Adams, who won the Cross in the Afghan War of 1878-9. Then there follows the historical record of three Classic Warriors, and some reflections on the Victoria Cross. The last chapter of this division concludes with a prophetic description of Kruger's career, passing through three phases of the present war.

The second division, headed "Miscellaneous," opens with an incident connected with the Indian Mutiny, when during a fight the writer's life was saved by the present Colonel Evans, then a lieutenant in the 9th Lancers—who was called by his comrades Bashi Bazouk. The writer met his preserver accidentally in the Public Gardens at Buxton in 1898 after over forty years' separation. This story is followed by other incidents, scenes, addresses, and Penny Readings, written and recited by the author for the amusement of British soldiers.

The third part, headed "Odds and Ends," contains selections from an accumulation of rhymes on various subjects, which the writer certainly never dreamt would ever appear in print, and even now he would hesitate to utilize them, were it not that his book is intended only for private circulation, and the writer ventures to think his readers, chiefly old friends, will pardon their reproduction on this occasion. The verses really claim no poetic merit—but as the last effort of a very old soldier, the survivor of the Gemini Generals, they may serve, not only to amuse relations and friends, but enable the writer, by the sale of his book, to add a pebble to the erection of a new Mission House which is much needed in the parish in which he is spending the remainder of his days.

In conclusion, the writer begs to offer his grateful thanks, to each and all of those kind friends, who have so generously helped him to defray the expenses incurred in printing this work.

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