POPULAR BALLADS OF THE OLDEN TIME; FIRST SERIES. BALLADS OF ROMANCE AND CHIVALRY

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Popular ballads of the olden time; First Series. Ballads of Romance and Chivalry by $\,$ Frank Sidgwick

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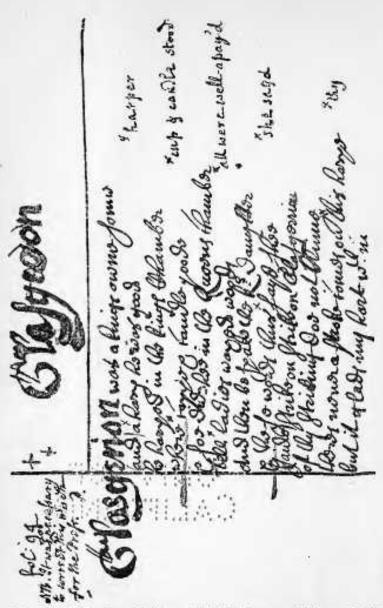
FRANK SIDGWICK

POPULAR BALLADS OF THE OLDEN TIME; FIRST SERIES. BALLADS OF ROMANCE AND CHIVALRY



POPULAR BALLADS OF THE OLDEN TIME

First Series. Ballads of Romance and Chivalry



Facsimile of the Percy Folio Ms. (British Museum, Addit. Ms. 27,879, f. 46 verso). Glasserios, first three verses (see p. 2), annotated by Percy. The full page is 151×6 inches.

POPULAR BALLADS OF THE OLDEN TIME SELECTED AND EDITED BY FRANK SIDGWICK

First Series. Ballads of Romance and Chivalry

'What hast here? Ballads?
'Pray now, buy some,'



A. H. BULLEN
47 Great Russell Street
London. MCMIII

'La rime n'est pas riche, et le style en est vieux;
Mais ne voyez-vous pas que cela vaut bien mieux
Que ces colifichets dont le bon sens murmure,
Et que la passion parle là toute pure?'

Mourken, Le Misanthrope, 1, 2.



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PREFACE

Or making selections of ballads there is no end. As a subject for the editor, they seem to be only less popular than Shakespeare, and every year sees a fresh output. But of late there has sprung up a custom of confusing the old with the new, the genuine with the imitation; and the products of civilised days, 'ballads' by courtesy or convention, are set beside the rugged and hard-featured aborigines of the tribe, just as the delicate bust of Clytie in the British Museum has for next neighbour the rude and bold 'Unknown Barbarian Captive.' To contrast by such enforced juxtaposition a ballad of the golden world with a ballad by Mr. Kipling is unfair to either, each being excellent in its way; and the collocation of Edward or Lord Randal with a ballad of Rossetti's is only of interest or value as exhibiting the perennial charm of the refrain.

There exist, however, in our tongue-though