

**HEÖTHA AND  
MELECH, AND  
OTHER POEMS**

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Heötha and Melech, and other poems by W. MacIlwaine

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**W. MACILWAINE**

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AND  
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REV. W. MACILWAINE, D.D.

Wm. Foster - with kind regards of  
M<sup>r</sup> Pooley the author -

HEÖTHA AND MELECH,

AND

Other Poems.

BY THE

REV. W. MACILWAINE, D.D.,

INCUMBENT OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, BELFAST.

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Σὲ τοῖν ἀφθιτον μονάρχην,  
Δὸς ἠννυμέν, δὸς ἀοίδειν.

*Gregory Nazianzen.*

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## P R E F A C E .

—♦♦♦—

**I**T was the author's intention to permit the pages which follow to make their own way, without any word whatever of preface or introduction. Second thoughts, however, have prompted him to prefix a few words to the trifling contribution to the poetry of the day which follows.

The first piece of the series, "Heötha and Melech," as will readily be perceived, is allegorical; nor need the circumstances which suggested the allegory be dwelt on, or perhaps, indeed, even mentioned. The events of the past year are of too recent, as well as in many respects too awakening a character, as regards Ireland and her Church, to allow them to slumber in the recollection of many. The poem in question was written partly as an alleviation of not a few cares and trials, accompanying the events referred to, and partly to give expression to some of the feelings and impressions thus left on the mind of the writer. Friends to whom it was shown, whether wisely or not remains to be proved, advised its publication. Being in itself too brief for separately appearing in print, the rest were added, in order that a volume of presentable size might

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be produced. These latter were, for the greater part, occupants of the writer's desk, where they had lain, some of them for years; a few had already been printed among the ephemeral productions of the time. On reviewing these, the writer felt that some friends might wish to see them in print, when, perhaps, he himself ceased to occupy his place among them, and that others might find in them some solace amidst care, or relief from anxiety; and so they have been given to the Press.

Should any of the numerous and respectable body of Reviewers think his work not beneath their notice, the writer would venture one word, in the way of disarming the keenness of criticism, respecting the principal poem. It will, doubtless, occur to many who read the story of "Heötha and Melech," that some of its leading ideas are borrowed from the legendary lore of Ireland, and found embodied in the lyrics of her National Bard. This is at once admitted. The writer would only add, that in some of the instances wherein resemblance, if not, indeed, identity, may be discovered, the images, as far as he can trace their connexion, rose almost spontaneously in his own mind, their origin being, no doubt, due to early and almost forgotten associations.

*Belfast, October, 1870.*

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