SONGS IN THE NIGHT

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Songs in the Night by A. Parke Burgess

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A. PARKE BURGESS

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A. PARKE BURGESS, D. D.



W. C. & F. D. BURGESS NEWARK, NEW YORK The Canatia Press

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> Cofyright, 1902 By W. C. & F. D. BURGESS

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Rev. A. Parke Burgess, D. D., and his wife, Jennette P. Burgess, were fatally injured in a wreck on the Northern Central Railroad on the evening of August 29, 1901, while returning to Newark from a week's outing in their summer cottage at Lake Bluff, Sodus Point, on Lake Outario. Mrs. Burgess died at about ten o'clock August 30, and Dr. Burgess at about two o'clock on the same day. The age of each was sixty-six years. They died at the home of their elder son in Newark, N. Y.

The late Dr. Burgess was, by nature, a poet. A talent for writing verse was developed very early in his life, and among his old papers were found many bits of rhyme and poems of some length written in his school boy days.

During the earlier years of his ministry he contributed to the religious press many prose articles and not a few poems. In his later years his thoughts appear to have been less frequently crystallized into poetic form, but what he wrote was exquisite in sentiment and diction, while some of it is worthy to rank with the productions of the masters of the art. The writing of verse was only incidental in his busy life, a sort of pastime, as the many bits of only a few lines hastly penned found here and there among his papers plainly ahow. But what he wrote has caused his friends to regret that he did not write more.

He evidently wrote, not so much for others as for himself. And hence in what he wrote is plainly to be seen a picture, a

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photograph, of the purposes and aspirations of the heart and life of the writer. Nearly all of his poems are serious in character. They have but little to do with the superficial trivialities of life. Yet in them all is the joyful spirit of one who was able to look deep down and high above, who had a great range of vision and a wonderful gift of interpretation of the mysteries of Divine wisdom and love. And hence, as might be expected, the predominant thought in the poetic writings of Dr. Burgess is an eager delight in service for the Master here, coupled with a confident steadfast assurance of rest, peace, and growth hereafter.

Since the death of Dr. Burgess his children have made a partial collection of his poetic writings and embodied them in this volume in the hope that many who knew and loved him and his belowed wife will gain comfort, pleasure, and help from them.

After many years of faithful service to his Master in the persons of his fellow men, the writer of these verses has gone into that Heaven towards which he had so steadfastly gazed. May his thoughts, his faith and his aspirations, gathered herein, come back like rays of Heavenly light, like breaths of Heaven's music, to many who knew and loved the author, and who, while hoping for a better country, are yet "pilgrims of the night." CHEMPLE

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