

# POEMS

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Poems by James C. Henderson

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**JAMES C. HENDERSON**

**POEMS**





JAMES C. HENDERSON.  
FROM A CHARCOAL DRAWING BY HIMSELF.



P O E M S

BY

JAMES C. HENDERSON

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1882.

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## MEMOIR.

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**I**N this brief Memoir of one whose youth held out promise of honourable achievements in the world of Art, when experience had matured his powers, there are no exciting incidents to record. His too early death came when, well equipped for the struggle and eager to try his strength and endurance, he stood on the very border of the battlefield of life. The time given to him had been spent mostly in preparation and discipline. From the good use he had made of his opportunities, from the refined character of his intellectual attainments and sympathies, and from the earnestness that distinguished all his efforts after excellence, we are, however, fully justified in assuming that, had years been granted to him, he would have done honest and memorable work. He passed through no wild stormy youth: his life was well ordered from the first. Without a tinge of either cant or asceticism, he seems to have placed before himself an ideal standard, by which, young as he was, he conscientiously tried to regulate his daily work. His whole nature was artistic and bright, not with the

fitful flashes of passion, but with the serene light that accompanies lofty thoughts and a pure and tender heart.

JAMES C. HENDERSON, eldest son of Mr. Joseph Henderson, Artist, was born in Glasgow on 4th July, 1858. He early showed his strong predilection for Art, and in this taste he was encouraged by his father. From his father, and in his father's studio, James received the best part of the instruction that was most valuable to him in after years. He spent two years in study at the Glasgow Haldane Academy, and took several prizes, including a third grade prize given by South Kensington for a chalk drawing of the Venus of Milo. He was then for nearly three years at the school of the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh. There, in 1880, he gained the second prize for drawing from the life, and, in 1881, the first prize for the best painting from the life. The award of this prize was not made until after JAMES HENDERSON'S death. The following extract from the Report for 1881 of the Royal Scottish Academy will be read with deep interest:—

“The Council feel called upon to make some special reference in their Report to the untimely loss of this student, whose high character and attainments gave promise of a career of more than ordinary distinction. Having received a good general education, Mr. Henderson three years ago entered the Life School, and in his second year carried off the second prize for Drawing from the Life,

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having from the first been a hard and steady worker. During the whole of the past Session he continued to work with equal assiduity, returning at its close to his father's house in Glasgow apparently in robust health. But on the following day he was taken ill, and within a fortnight died. A few weeks thereafter the highest prize in the School was awarded to his studies. Notwithstanding Mr. Henderson's arduous labours as a Student, he was a regular contributor to several periodicals, having written much both in prose and verse. He was manly, yet refined in character, and greatly endeared himself to the Visitors and Students."

At the meeting on 7th December, 1881, at which the prizes were presented to the successful students of the year, Sir Daniel Macneil, the President of the Academy, spoke of the great loss the student-list had sustained in the death of young HENDERSON, and of the excellence of both his work and character.

JAMES HENDERSON did not send much to Exhibitions. Acting on sound advice, he was quietly cultivating and developing his powers before challenging public criticism. But in all he sent the judicious eye could see much to admire, and still more on which to found high anticipations of what the young painter might yet do. "Poverty's Flower Garden," shown at the Glasgow Institute Exhibition in 1879, was a beautiful study. So also was "At the Well," in the Scottish Academy Exhibition of 1881.

After the close of the Session in Edinburgh, in the