

**POETRY OF MODERN  
GREECE: SPECIMENS  
AND EXTRACTS**

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Poetry of Modern Greece: Specimens and Extracts by Florence M'Pherson

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**Specimens and Extracts.**

TRANSLATED BY  
FLORENCE M'PHERSON.

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## PREFACE.

THE modern literature of Greece has as yet attracted little notice in England, though in France and Germany it meets with more attention. The merits of Greek popular ballads have indeed been made known here as well as elsewhere, and many of them have been from time to time translated, but very few English versions have appeared from the works of the poetical writers who have arisen in Greece since she regained her freedom.

To introduce a few of these to English readers is the object of this book.

As, however, no work dealing with modern Greek poetry can leave the popular ballads unnoticed, the first part contains translations of some of them.

Only four of the ballads here given have been translated into English before, so far as I know. Nos. iv., viii., and xix., by Charles Brinsley Sheridan in his *Songs of Greece*, 1826; No. ix. by the Hon. Roden Noel, in the *Panhellenic Annual*, 1880. No. iv. has also been translated by the Rev. H. F. Tozer in his *Highlands of Turkey*, and No. xix. also by Professor Blackie.

The originals of all the ballads in this book (with two exceptions) will be found in the collection entitled *Popularia Carmina Græciæ recentioris*, edited by Passow, 1860, or in the "Συλλογή Σημῶδων Ἀισμάτων τῆς Ἠπειροῦ," by Aravantinos, Athens, 1881. Several of them are of course also in Fauriel's *Chansons Populaires de la Grèce Moderne*, but I have only given a special reference to Fauriel when I have followed his readings rather than those preferred by Passow. I must also acknowledge my obligation to my first guide in the study of Modern Greek, *Neugriechische Volksgesänge*, part 2, edited with German translation, by J. Firmenich-Richartz, Berlin, 1867. The six ballads numbered iii., iv., viii., xi.,

xv., and xix. in this book are included in that of Firmenich.

My references are always to the *numbers* of the ballads in the above collections, not to the *names*, as these are variously given by different editors. In these translations I have generally used our long metre to represent the Greek Πολιτικὸς στίχος, and have also rhymed the verses, though the originals are unrhymed.

The second part contains translations from the works of lettered Greek poets of the present century. None of these, except Solomos' "Ode to Liberty," have been translated into English before. I have given references to the editions of the poets' works in which the originals may be found. Where no such reference is given, the original poem is to be found in a collection of Modern Greek poetry entitled "Παρνασσός,"<sup>1</sup> edited by P. Mataranga, Athens, 1880.

In translating the pieces in this second part, I have not always adhered to the original metres. In many cases my choice seemed to

<sup>1</sup> Not to be confounded with the periodical issued by the Literary Society, "Parnassos," of Athens.