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VOL.
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WITH A MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR**

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DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI & FRANCIS HUEFFER

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BALLADS AND SONNETS BY DANTE G. ROSSETTI.

IN ONE VOLUME.

TAUCHNITZ EDITION.

By the same Author,

POEMS 1 VOL.

BALLADS AND SONNETS.

BY

DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI.

WITH A MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR
BY FRANCIS HUEFFER.

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BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1882.

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TO
THEODORE WATTS,
THE FRIEND WHOM MY VERSE WON FOR ME,
THESE FEW MORE PAGES
ARE AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED.

M E M O I R
OF
DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI.

A few weeks after the present volume had issued from the press, when literary circles were ringing with the praise of the author who after a long interval of silence had shown his undiminished and in many respects enlarged powers, the news of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's death appeared one morning in the papers. To his admirers and even to most of his friends that news was unexpected. Rossetti in his latter days had led the life almost of a recluse, seldom leaving his picturesque old house in Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, and seeing only a few intimate friends. Shortly before his end he retired for a few weeks to Birchington on Sea near Margate to seek the relief from his sufferings which death alone was to bring, and there on Sunday, April 9th, 1882, he breathed his last. In the quiet little village graveyard within sound of the sea, he lies buried.

In accordance with his wish and with the whole tenor of his life his funeral was conducted without the pomp and circumstance of death which usually sur-

round the grave of a famous poet and painter. The hearse was followed only by his aged mother, his brother William, his sister Christina, the poetess, Mr. Theodore Watts the well known writer and the trusty friend of Rossetti's latter years and a few others. May he rest in peace.

No man's life, the ancients said, can be called happy before its end. Still more is it true that an artist's or a poet's work can be considered complete only when death has as it were put its seal upon his achievements, when those achievements have passed from the fierce light that beats upon contemporary aspiration to the milder shade of history. It is for this reason that a more complete and more impartial account can now be given of Rossetti's life and work than was possible in the memoir prefixed to the first volume of his poems in the Tauchnitz edition.

Gabriel Charles Dante Rossetti, was born at 38, Charlotte Street, Portland Place, London, on May 12th, 1828. His father was Gabriele Rossetti, the well known Italian patriot and Dante scholar. Rossetti, the father, was one of the leaders of the popular party at Naples, which he inflamed with his patriotic songs. He had to leave his position at the Museo Borbonico and his country in consequence of the disastrous events of the year 1821. It seems that two lines in his poems,

*Che i Sandi ed i Louvelli
Non sono morti ancor*

in which tyrannicide was preached but too openly prevented him from obtaining a reprieve of the sen-