

**SONGS OF
RELIGION AND LIFE**

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Songs of religion and life by John Stuart Blackie

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RELIGION AND LIFE

BY

JOHN STUART BLACKIE

PROFESSOR OF GREEK IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

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P R E F A C E.

THE Poems in this volume may be regarded as a Second Edition of the second part of my 'Lays and Legends of Ancient Greece,' which has long been out of print, along with other Poems not hitherto published, and a few from a volume of 'Lyrical Poems' previously published, all having a common object, viz., the cultivation of religious reverence without sectarian dogmatism, and of poetical sentiment tending not so much to amuse the imagination or to tickle the fancy as to purify the passions and to regulate the conduct of life. That the composition of these Poems, as occasion offered,

has been a source of intellectual enlargement and of moral elevation to myself I am well convinced; and I am not without hope that they may act as a salutary stimulus to others, who know that there is one thing needful, viz., the formation of a noble character, and that everything else is vanity. As for the philosophy that lies at the bottom of these Poems—and all true poetry is a concrete philosophy,—it is only a modern expression of the Nineteenth Psalm, recognising, as that noble composition does, the essential unity and divine significance alike of the physical world without and the moral world within, as a glorious biform manifestation of the great uncaused Cause of the Universe,—an altogether different wisdom—at once more profound and more complete—from that meagre dissection and tabulation of the soulless out-