

**LIFE, LETTERS AND
ESSAYS. VOL. II. THE
BOOK OF THE POETS**

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Life, Letters and Essays. Vol. II. The Book of the Poets by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

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ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

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OF

Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

VOL. II.



THE
BOOK OF THE POETS.

BY

Elizabeth Barrett Browning.



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1877.

NOTE BY THE AMERICAN PUBLISHER.

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THE POEMS OF MRS. E. B. BROWNING, in
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ROBERT BROWNING.







THE BOOK OF THE POETS.

THE voice of the turtle is heard in the land. The green book of the earth is open, and the four winds are turning the leaves: while Nature, chief secretary to the creative Word, sits busy at her inditing of many a lovely poem,—her “Flower and the Leaf” on this side, her “Cuckoo and the Nightingale” on that, her “Paradise of Dainty Devices” in and out among the valleys, her “Polyolbion” away across the hills, her “Britannia’s Pastorals” on the home meadows, her sonnets of tufted primroses, her lyrical outgushings of May blossoming, her epical and didactic solemnities of light and shadow, and many an illustrative picture to garnish the universal annual. What book shall we open side by side with Nature’s? First, the book of God. “The Book of the Poets” may well come