THE QUEST OF SIR BERTRAND, AND OTHER POEMS

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The quest of Sir Bertrand, and other poems by R. H. Domenichetti

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R. H. DOMENICHETTI

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THE

Quest of Sir Bertrand,

AND OTHER POEMS.

BY
R. H. DOMENICHETTI.

WITH A PROSTISPIECE BY MRS. TRAQUAIR.

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CONTENTS.

						P	AGE
THE QUEST OF SIR BER	TRANI	۶.,	*	34	580	20	1
The Bede of John .	5%	24	*:	*	9	*6	77
DANSE DES BACCHANTES	14	-65	2	88		*	81
THE CHRIST OF ANDERN	ACII	$(\widehat{\mathcal{T}_{\bullet}})$	Ç.,				88
A SPRING REVERIE .		- 60		3	100	40	86
Love's Requiem .	28		51			*	89
BENEDICITE	330	500	83		120		93
LAC D'ANOUR		< 3	36	38	100	20	96
MUSIC OF THE SPHERES	34	33	*	0.00		*	99
THE DEATH OF TIME .	(4		365	§2	23	90	104
A NORTHERN FANTASY	1.5	6					106
THE PALMER GREY .	335			12		•	109
BABEL	88	•	365	28	100	•	113
LORDSMAN AND LADY	33	100	30	89	60	36	119
THE TOURNAMENT .	23	40	Œ:	66	400		124
ST. VALENTINE'S EVE	312			1	2.5		127

THE NIGHTINGALE

LYRICS, &c. PAGE EPHEMERA . . 133 PROEMION. . 134 THE RING . 135 HIRONDELLES . 157 VALENTINE . 139 TRE QUESTION . 140 ABSENCE . 142 LOVE'S CROWN . 143 NOCTURNE . . 145 TOO LATE . 147 PENUMBRA . . 149 SPRING . 151 A SPRING ODE . 154 . 159 AUTUMN LEAVES REST . . 161 THE TARANTELLE . 162 THE PRODIGAL . 163 . 165 PEACE . 167 A SIREN . 170 SLEEP . 171 LIFE'S BANQUET. TORCHLIGHT . 173 . 175 RIVER PICTURES THE RIVER OF LOVE . 177 . 179 THE RIVER OF SONG 180 Schocco.

. 182

150	co	NTI	ENT	8.			vii	
							PAGE	
Parting	Ç.		•	38	2	5.5	. 184	
RONDEAU	25	22	130	20	: +:		. 186	
Mors	80	36	8.	87	3#3	100	. 187	
"JANCA VITE".		38	1(4)	80	*	89	. 189	
Depression .	20	28		10		3	, 191	
LES PATINEURS .	322	33	53		-	34	. 193	
FLOODINE	•	gi		9		٠	. 195	
LOVE AND FANCY	320	85	3 ± 3	#1	200	25	. 196	
Love's Victim .	30	9		*	*	4	. 197	
	DE	VOT.	ion:	\I.				
O Salutaris Host	TA	Œ	39	*3	*	09	. 201	
Maria Desolata	33			20	84	100	. 204	
VERBUM DEI .		2	100		77.5	1	, 207	
RHYME OF THE HA	t two	er Fe	11.36				200	

THE QUEST OF SIR BERTRAND.

I.

Sir Bertrand knelt at the abbey gate; In sorry plight was he: He knocketh long, and yet may wait, Or ever it opened be.

Against the lintel of the door

Weary he laid his face

All wan and white; straight on before

His wide eyes stared in space.

Soiled was his shining morion, And soiled his côte d'armure; The lions, wrought in gold thereon, Were dark with stains obscure. Dead thistles cumbered all the gate
And withered hemlock tall,
With tangled nightshade lingering late
Against the mouldcring wall.

He knocketh until bolt and bar Long rusted gride and creak, And standing by the door ajar, A cowled monk 'gan speak.

"Now say, Sir Knight, wherefore dost stare
With wide and awful eye?
There's mire upon thine armour fair,
Thy steed is fain to die."

"Assoil me, Father, if my sin

May e'er assoiléd be,

And bless me, that I may begin

My penance dread to dree."