

**NUGÆ SACRÆ; OR,  
PSALMS AND HYMNS  
AND SPIRITUAL SONGS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649659555

Nugæ Sacræ; Or, Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs by William Ball

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**WILLIAM BALL**

**NUGÆ SACRÆ; OR,  
PSALMS AND HYMNS  
AND SPIRITUAL SONGS**



*P. H. 1826*

**NUGÆ SACRÆ.**

OR,

**PSALMS AND HYMNS, AND SPIRITUAL  
SONGS.**

---

**UNTO THEE, O LORD, WILL I SING.**

PSALM cii. 1.

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**LONDON:**

**J. HATCHARD AND SON, 187, PICCADILLY.**

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## PREFACE.

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THOUGH these little sacred Pieces were certainly not composed with any design of publication, yet having imperceptibly accumulated, the writer willingly presents them to the public; not only in the hope, that they may prove an acceptable though trifling acquisition in, perhaps, the only department of poetry that is but scantily supplied; but also in the serious recollection, that he who held but one talent, was not on that account exculpated, in hiding "his Lord's money."

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N. B.—If any of the writer's friends should chance to recognize some of the hymns, he feels assured that, *as such*, they will favour his earnest wish to conceal his name.

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## INTRODUCTORY DEDICATION.

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To \*\*\*\*\*

THE strain, that naught but truth can boast,  
The fond and grateful strain, receive :  
But ah! 'tis those who owe the most,  
Have least to give !

It asks indulgence tow'rd the lays  
Which it anew \* inscribes to thee ;  
Asks that the love it thus displays  
May welcome be.

\* The first manuscript copy of them was thus inscribed.

Rude as they are—no more I seek :  
Nor would repress the humbling thought,  
Much of the cross, that those may speak  
Who bear it not :

That worshippers with lip and tongue  
Yet fix'd to earth, may lingering stand ;  
And e'en may Zion's harp have strung  
In a strange land.

Though clear the head, that darkness still  
May o'er the inmost heart prevail ;  
As light, more oft, plays o'er the hill  
Than threads the dale.

Nor are these simple lays design'd,  
While of celestial themes they treat,  
*As transcripts of the private mind,*  
Thine eye to meet ;

For well my heart might mourn to thee  
The lingering gloom of error's night ;  
Oh, ask for me, the blest decree,  
Let there be light !

And may this light in purest ray  
Still o'er thy path be brightly given ;  
Pour o'er thy way the perfect day,  
The dawn of heaven !

*July, 1825.*