

**THE MISSION OF
SYMPATHY; A POEM,
IN FOUR CANTOS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649510603

The Mission of Sympathy; A Poem, in Four Cantos by William S. Villiers Sankey

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM S. VILLIERS SANKEY

**THE MISSION OF
SYMPATHY; A POEM,
IN FOUR CANTOS**

THE
MISSION OF SYMPATHY

A Poem,

IN FOUR CANTOS.

BY

WILLIAM S. VILLIERS SANKEY, M.A.

LONDON:

WILLIAM PICKERING, 177, PICCADILLY.

1850.

PRINTED BY
COX (BROTHERS) AND WYMAN, GREAT QUEEN STREET,
LINCOLN'S-INN FIELDS.

TO THE MEMORY
OF
OLIVER LATHAM, OF MELDRUM, ESQ.,
This Work,

INTENDED TO HAVE BEEN DEDICATED TO HIM WHEN LIVING,
IN TESTIMONY OF HIS MANY VIRTUES,
ADORNED BY THE GRACES OF HIGHLY POLISHED MANNERS,
AND RENDERED STILL MORE ATTRACTIVE BY THE KINDLINESS OF
HIS SYMPATHIZING DISPOSITION,
IS NOW INSCRIBED, IN GRATEFUL RECOLLECTION,
BY HIS SORROWING FRIEND AND RELATIVE,
THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

THE origin and object of the following Poem may be briefly stated in a few words. It had long been with me an interesting subject of contemplation, to reflect on the great amount of happiness which the exercise of a kindly sympathy is calculated to afford, either by alleviating pain, both bodily and mental, or by giving a higher zest to those innocent enjoyments which the bounty of Providence is pleased to bestow. The high and beneficent *Mission of Sympathy* appeared, therefore, to me to supply a theme well adapted for the exercise of the most exalted powers of a poetic imagination. Conscious, however, of my own deficiencies in this respect, I had not, originally, the idea of attempting anything that way myself, and had even the intention of suggesting the subject to one or two

friends, whose poetical powers I knew to be fully equal to the task ; circumstances, however, having lately afforded me an unusual degree of leisure, I commenced stringing my ideas on a thread of rhymes, which insensibly lengthened as time ran on : the result has been, the embodying of my thoughts in the following essay, which has outgrown the scope of my original conception, limited as that was to two Parts or Cantos : I have found it impossible to do anything like justice to the subject in less than four. In the first, the beneficent effects of Sympathy are generally enlarged upon, contrasted with the sad distress which is too often occasioned by an unkind or cold withholding of her soothing care. The influence of Sympathy, as the source of Friendship and of Love, is dwelt upon in the second Canto ; and rules for the best way of cultivating and exercising our sympathies, with a view to assuaging the anguish of the afflicted breast, are laid down as in the person of Sympathy herself. The third Canto illustrates the blessings which Sympathy carries in her train, by examples taken from some of the great public benefactors of

mankind,—St. Vincent de Paul, Howard, and Wilberforce; while, in the last Canto, Sympathy is presented as alone capable of solving the grand social problem in establishing relations of amity and peace, not only between individuals, but nations, complicated as that problem is by the discordant element of a variety of race, &c. In fulfilling this part of her mission, Sympathy is readily seen to be identical with *Christian Charity*, and, as such, endowed with a principle of vitality, not limited to the mere temporary duration of this world, since she is to form the connecting link which shall bind together in heavenly harmony the happy intelligences gathered around the throne of the Most High throughout the countless ages of eternity.

The subject is indeed vast, and demands far higher powers of song than any which I can boast, and a hand more skilled to touch the chords of a harp more exquisitely strung than mine. If, however, this feeble attempt should awaken the attention of but a single individual to the high importance of cultivating and directing the better sympathies of our