

**OFFERINGS FOR
ORPHANS: A SERIES OF
ORIGINAL PIECES,
IN PROSE AND VERSE**

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Offerings for Orphans: A Series of Original Pieces, in Prose and Verse by Various

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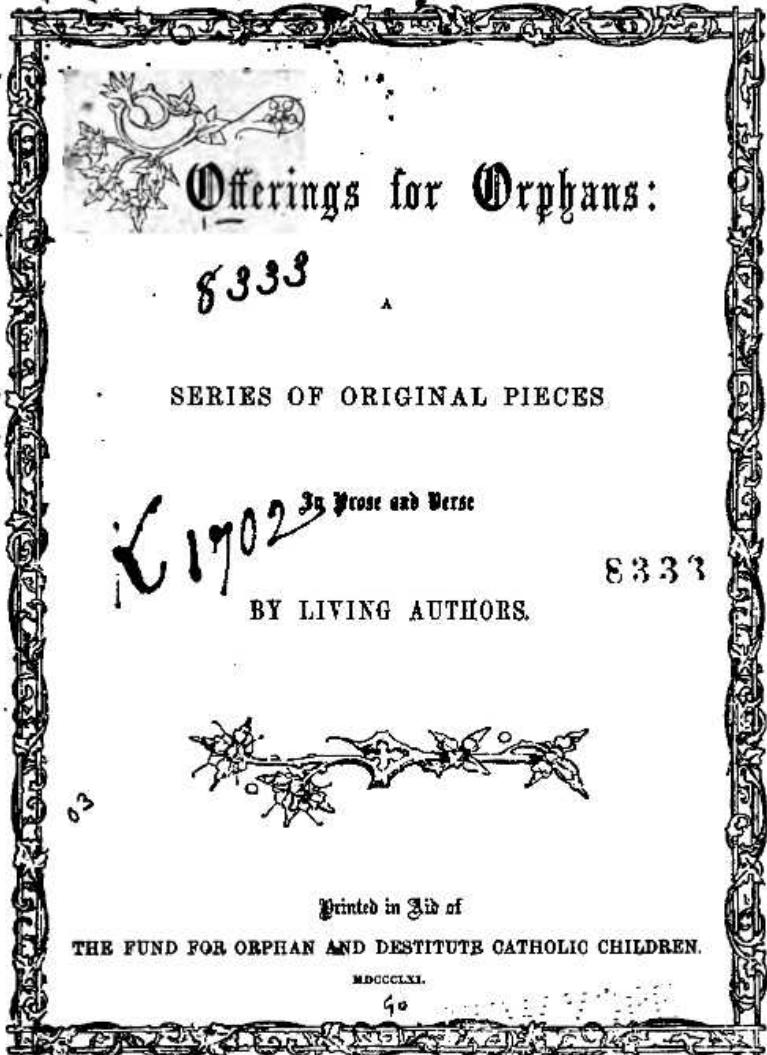
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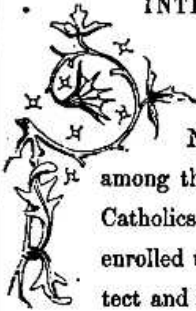
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INTRODUCTORY WORDS.



NOT quite two years ago, numbers among the labouring and poorest classes of Catholics in a parish of London voluntarily enrolled themselves in an Association to protect and support the Orphans and Friendless Children, chiefly of Irish parentage, wandering in this great City.

Begun in a corner, among some of the most out-cast and degraded haunts of London, it grew up and spread from parish to parish, carrying out its mission in the same lowly and simple way.

Those who watched and prayed for its success rejoiced to see this work taken up and carried on by persons of station and influence, who, by little and little, joined themselves to the undertaking with generous hearts, feeling it a privilege to be asso-

ciated with the Poor in behalf of their still poorer brethren.

But another more unexpected source of satisfaction has been opened to them. For, as the wretched condition of so many thousands of friendless children, became gradually known, and an appeal for help was therefore made to others upon whom there was ordinarily no claim, they found that appeal met by the most generous and unselfish good-will.

On turning over the pages of this volume, it will be seen, by the affluence of names in unwonted association, what friendly hands have been stretched out in this cause. While invoking a blessing upon those who have thus helped the Fatherless and the Orphan, their protectors rejoice in their inmost hearts to know that it is already given,—for it was long ago promised in Words that can never pass away.

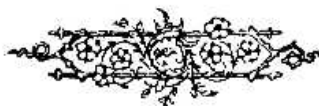
London, May 3, 1881.



CONTENTS.

	PAGE
A SPRING SONG. AUBREY DE VERE, Esq.	1
CONSOLATIONS IN SORROW. THE VERY REV. DR. NEWMAN	3
THE EARL'S WIFE. THE HONOURABLE SOPHIA PETT	6
THE GREENE TURFE. MISS BOWLER	9
THE OLD LABOURER. THE VERY REV. DR. FABER	11
"IT IS I; BE NOT AFRAID." THE EARL OF CARLEWLE	16
REPARATION. THE LADY GEORGINA FULLERTON	17.
LOOKING BACK. BARRY CORNWALL	29
A CASTLE IN THE AIR. MISS PROCTER	34
KAISER MAX; OR, THE MARTIN'S WAND. MISS PARRY	36
WIND AND STARS. MISS ISA CRAIG	50
THE OELIAN HILL. MISS BESSIE PARKES	51
SILENCE. STONVURST	52
TO T. A. THE LADY GEORGINA FULLERTON	58
THE LANDING OF ST. AUGUSTINE. THE LATE VISCOUNTESS FELDING	59
NEW-YEAR VERSES. THE HONOURABLE MRS. NORTON	65
A SOLDIER OF THE WILL. H. B. S. DALTON, Esq.	67
IRELAND IN THE OLD TIME; OR, QUEEN MARGARET'S FEAST- ING. AUBREY DE VERE, Esq..	73
THE TWO LETTERS. MRS. GREVILLE	76
THE CATACOMBS IN THE CAPUCHIN CONVENT. C. C. G.	80


	page
A CHILD'S BIRTHDAY. D. F. MACCARTHY, Esq.	82
ON A CONVENT TRANSFORMED INTO A PRISON. THE HONOUR- ABLE SUSAN PITT	89
THE FLOWER OF FRANCE, AND SCOTLAND'S COMFORT. Miss TAYLER	98
THE SHIPWRECKED MARINER. STONVBURST	140
A FAREWELL TO ROME. THE LATE VISCOUNTESS FEILDING	144
LIFE'S MUSIC. THE HONOURABLE MRS. NORTON	145
MILLY'S EXPIATION. Miss FROSTER	146.
A SUMMER SONG—THE LIME-BLOSSOM. AUBREY DE VESSE, Esq.	166
A REMEMBRANCE. Miss ISA CRAIG	167
SACRIFICE. THE VERY REV. DR. NEWMAN	170
MUSIC. THE VERY REV. DR. FABER	173
THE FATHERLESS. Miss BOWLES	178





Offerings for Orphans.

A SPRING SONG.



HOLD on, hold on, while yet ye can,
Old oak-leaves, red and sere !
Hold up, thick-set in narrow span,
The sunset of last year !

II.

Your boast is just ; yet, ancient friends,
Forgive me if at times
On that green spray my glance descends,
On that white thorn my rhymes.

III.

The rookery from the wintry woods
Clanged like a cataract's roar ;
Each eve our closed eyes saw great floods
O'er rocky barriers pour.