

POEMS

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Poems by Oliphant Down

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OLIPHANT DOWN

POEMS

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BY

THE LATE

CAPT. OLIPHANT DOWN, M.C.

4TH BATTALION ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT

GOWANS AND GRAY, LTD., LONDON AND GLASGOW

LEROY PHILLIPS, BOSTON, U.S.A.

1921

A FOREWORD

It is with no little diffidence that this collection of verses from the pen of OLIPHANT DOWN is now presented in book form. Those of the public who have read and admired his delightful fantasy *The Maker of Dreams*, will forgive a certain crudity that is apparent in parts of the present work, as some of the poems were written in his later school-days; still, the reader will no doubt trace in many of the verses the birth of the dainty and charming expressions and quaint fancies that make the play so arresting.

In August, 1914, on the outbreak of the Great War, Oliphant Down, caught up in the wave of enthusiasm that swept over the youth of the country, laid aside the pen to wield the sword. He enlisted in the 15th Hussars, and later obtained a commission in the Royal Berkshire Regiment.

His was a nature that abhorred war and its attendant horrors; it is, therefore, remarkable that this dreamer and idealist should have developed into such a very gallant and capable soldier. He was killed near Demicourt in the Somme Area on the 23rd May, 1917. England has had to mourn the loss of many of her gifted young men in the world of Literature and Art, and it is amongst this band that the Author of these verses must be numbered.

In the collection of some of the verses I am indebted to Messrs. W. Ellis Reynolds, Elliot Makeham, T. J. Crawford, and the Editor of the *Fifth Hoster Gazette* for the help they have afforded me.

HAROLD VEASEY.

LONDON, September, 1921.



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MISCELLANEOUS POEMS

