

**LETTERS AND  
VERSES OF HENRY  
ELIOT GUILD**

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Letters and Verses of Henry Eliot Guild by Henry Eliot Guild

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BIRCH PLAGE

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HENRY ELIOT GUILD

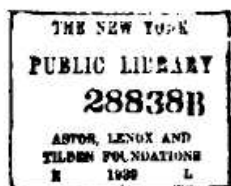
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## P R E F A C E.

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**T**HIS little volume, privately printed, requires perhaps a reason for its appearance. It might be asked why a life so simple as is here portrayed should have been deemed worthy of record. No marked events are described, nor do the letters possess any special literary merit. But HENRY ELIOT GUILD inspired such depth of affection that his friends have desired to know all that they can about him. To gratify them, the letters in this book have been selected and arranged to give a connected idea of his life.

The Verses will speak for themselves. Many of them are evidently a natural expression of the feelings of the passing hour; others, of the deeper experiences of life.

Two quotations from Ruskin are prefixed to his manuscript volume of Verses: —

“There are few men, ordinarily educated, who, in moments of strong feeling, could not strike out a poetic thought, and afterwards polish it so as to be presentable.

WOLFSON



But men of sense know better than so to waste their time, and those who sincerely love poetry know the touch of the master's hand on the chords too well to fumble among them after him."

"All inferior poetry is an injury to the good, inasmuch as it takes away the freshness of rhymes, blunders upon and gives a wretched commonalty to good thoughts, and adds to the weight of human weariness in a most woful and culpable manner."

It was characteristic of the writer of the *Verses* to choose these words to remind him constantly of what is worthy and best in poetry. In all things, and in the conduct of life especially, he kept a high standard in view, and did his best to attain it.

M. L. G.

BOSTON, May, 1890.



