

**POEMS  
AND BALLADS**

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Poems and ballads by Heinrich Heine & Sir Theodore Martin

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**HEINRICH HEINE & SIR THEODORE MARTIN**

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AND BALLADS**



# POEMS AND BALLADS

BY

HEINRICH HEINE

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*DONE INTO ENGLISH VERSE*

BY

SIR THEODORE MARTIN, K.C.B.

SECOND EDITION

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TO  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
THE PRINCE .LEOPOLD,  
THIS ATTEMPT  
TO MAKE KNOWN TO ENGLISH READERS  
ONE OF THE GREATEST POETS  
OF GERMANY,  
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED  
BY  
THE TRANSLATOR.

832843





## L'ENVOI.

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THE genius of Heine is only to be appreciated by the study of his very copious poetical works, as well as of his voluminous prose. But to the mass of readers he will always be chiefly known by his 'Book of Songs.' There are few whose experience is either so wholly happy or so wholly sad that they will not find in these an echo of some of the deepest emotions they have known;—few so deadened to the charm of exquisite fancies clothed in exquisite language that they will not willingly surrender themselves to be swayed at will by these consummate specimens of the poet's "so potent art." Most of the lyrics in the 'Book of Songs' need no other music than their own. Nevertheless, many of them have been wedded to melodies

not unworthy of their beauty by the genius of Schubert, Mendelssohn, Schumann, and others. Thus, their fascination has been in some degree heightened for those whose love of music is equal to their love of poetry, and in this way also they have been made familiar to a public whom they might not otherwise have reached.

The present Volume contains translations of all the songs and ballads in the 'Book of Songs' which the translator ventures to think are likely to be acceptable to an English reader. Perhaps a severe criticism would even say that the principle of exclusion might have been carried further. Heine, like most poets, wrote too much; and his name would rank higher in the world of letters if many of his pieces, which are either steeped in grossness or deformed by a revolting cynicism, had never seen the light. In his selections, the translator's object has been to show the poet at his best, and at the same time to illustrate the cynicism and bitter irony which are as characteristic of Heine as are his passion, his pathos, his picturesque simplicity and force. Some of the pieces, which have been added from his miscellaneous poems, are less generally known, but they are no less impressed

with the distinctive qualities of the poet's genius than the poems of the 'Book of Songs.'

The warm welcome given to many of these translations, as they appeared from time to time in 'Blackwood's Magazine,' has induced the translator to add to their number, and to include them in a volume, which he trusts may not be unwelcome even where the originals are best known.