

**GERARD'S
MONUMENT:
AND OTHER POEMS**

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Gerard's Monument: And Other Poems by Emily Pfeiffer

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EMILY PFEIFFER

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BY

Mrs. EMILY PFEIFFER,

AUTHOR OF "VALERIEA"; AND "MARGARET THE MOTHERLESS".

LONDON:

TRÜBNER & CO., LUDGATE HILL.

1873.

TO
J. C. D.

GLEANINGS OF FRUIT AND FLOWER FROM A CERTAIN SPAN OF LIFE,
THESE THOUGHTS BOUND UP IN RHYME,
ARE OFFERED FIRST TO ONE
IN WHOSE EYES THEY WILL BE SEEN AS PRECIOUS,
BY THE LIGHT OF THE LOVE THAT GIVES,
AND OF THE LOVE THAT TAKES.

E. P.

MATFIELD,
March 31st, 1873.

P R E F A C E.

THE author of Gerard's Monument has assumed the right—which, unhappily, none now living have more claim to than herself—to transplant a branch of the ancient family of Tyldesley of Tyldesley, in Lancashire, to that part of the low wild coast of Sussex which has been encroached upon by the sea. It has been thought desirable to mention this, as the story has a local setting, and persons with antiquarian tendencies might incur disappointment in seeking for records of the name amongst those belonging to the district. For the rest, the author has endeavoured to render with fidelity both the aspects of the lonely coast between Bognor and Selsea, and the traditional characteristics of a family, represented in more recent times by the gallant cavalier, Sir Thomas Tyldesley, Governor of Lichfield, who having raised regiments of "horse, foot, and dragoons," at his own expense, in support of the losing

cause of Charles the First, yielded up his life in 1650, at the battle of Wigan. In Pagham harbour, which was formed by an irruption of the sea in the early part of the fourteenth century, there is a spot known to the fishing population of the coast, as the Hushing Well. Strange and weird noises may be heard issuing as from the sea, when the tide is high; while at low water, the air may be felt rushing through the shingle, as if to supply the void made in some large cavity beneath, by the withdrawal of the tide. It is here that the goldsmith has been supposed to be labouring in atonement of his broken vow.

Having thought it expedient to address her public in her own person thus far, the author feels it would be abrupt to stop here. If "the half of a jest lies in the ear of him who hears it," so a book, as a book, can scarcely be said to exist, before it has found a recipient Public. The author therefore commends her work to the sympathy of the reader; whom, under all conditions of age and sex, she delights to contemplate as "gentle."

Mayfield, West Hill, Putney,

February 3rd, 1873.

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