

SONGS OF STUDY

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Songs of study by William Wilkins

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WILLIAM WILKINS

**SONGS
OF STUDY**

SONGS OF STUDY

BY

WILLIAM WILKINS

B.A. AND SCHOLAR, TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN

"Minds innocent and quiet take
That for a hermitage"

LOVELACE

"Yet, at the worst of the worst, books and a chamber remain"

CLOUGH

LONDON

C. KEGAN PAUL & CO., 1, PATERNOSTER SQUARE

1881

PR
5534
11455

TO
MY BROTHER CHARLIE,
TO
ALL WHO LOVED HIM,
TO
THE UNIVERSITY HE LOVED.

5534
11455

Some of the poems in this volume have already appeared in serials, chiefly in *Kallibos*, a miscellany of Greek, Latin, and English verses, published every term in Dublin University. "Love Letter" and "In the Engine Shed" were included in a collection of poetry for recitation, edited in 1875 by Mr. John A. Jennings.

As once I set my songs before his face
I set his name to-day before my songs ;
Because the sunshine of our study-place
Came from his comradeship, which still prolongs
Its blessed sense beyond the graveyard murk,
And ever soothes me at my lonely work.

For I expect all day his entering,
With steady eyes of hope, and merry smile
Fresh as the heather perfume, or the spring
Of mountain streams, and potent to beguile
Dark thought, and prompt resolve to choose the best,
To follow and find and hold the worthiest ;

Mercy, and justice, and the thrice-white fire
Of scorn for slave and tyrant,—all the bright
Pure solaces of life, and high desire
Above all things in heaven and earth for light ;
Such gods were his. Their temples yet remain,
Sacred for me, in every verdured lane

Between the mountain summits and the sea,
 Along our broad branch-waving country-side :
Wherever his free feet have gone with me
 In misty Irish sunshine far and wide,
Rejoicing in our youth with courage high,
And in the hills and cloudy-splendid sky.

In life and death I hold my brother dear,
 And bravely faithful to himself and me,
His deep love being all my atmosphere
 Till we lock hands in some new ecstasy ;
Until new earth and heaven on me unfold
And our new comradeship transcend the old.

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