

**A
PRIEST'S POEMS**

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A priest's poems by Kenelm Digby Best

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KENELM DIGBY BEST

**A
PRIEST'S POEMS**

1897

A PRIEST'S POEMS

BY

K. D. B.

IN TWO PARTS

"O judge not thou that I have been too bold
With sacred teaching, or have done it wrong
To give fair form or sweetness to my song."

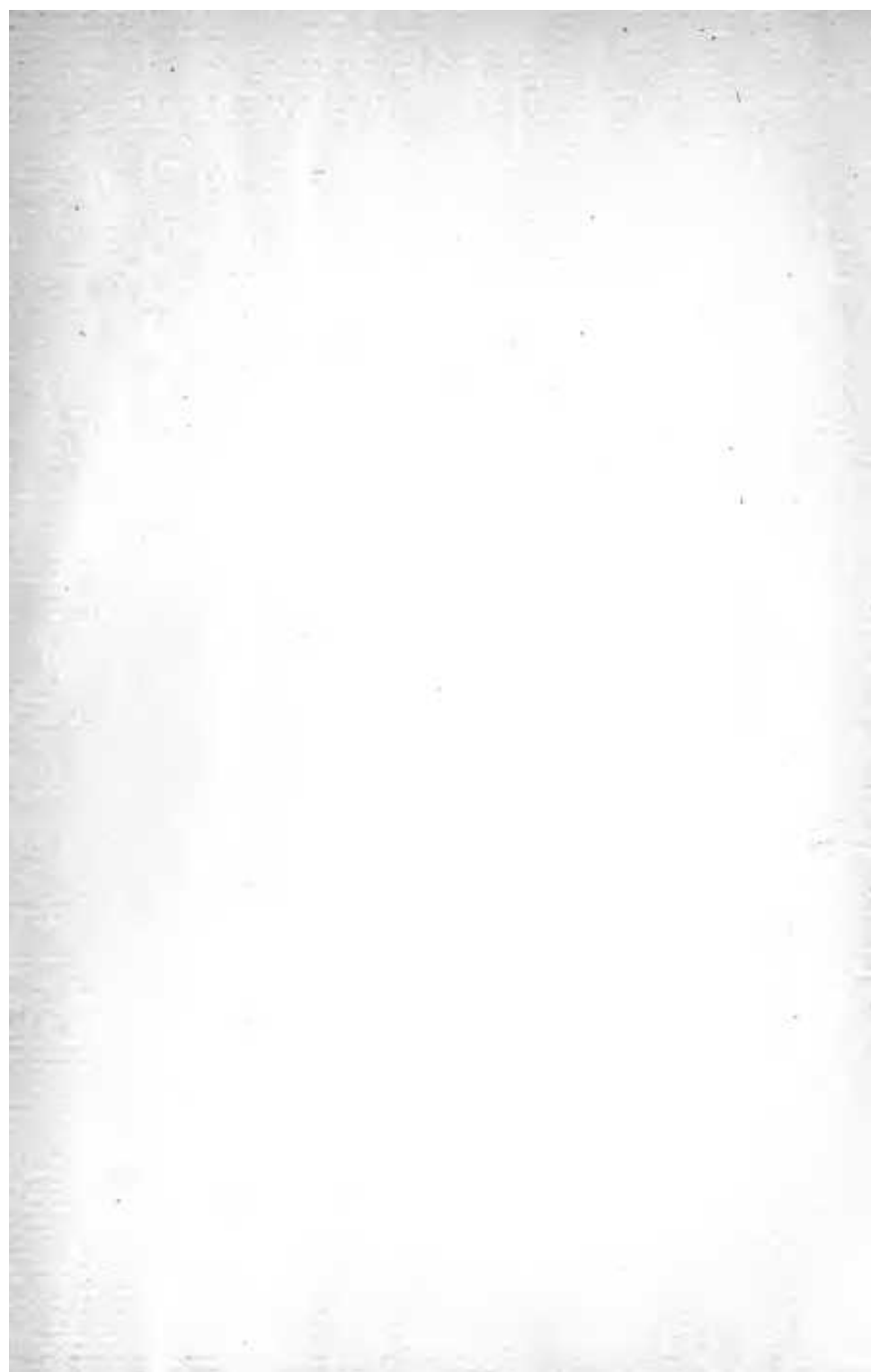
FABER

LONDON

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY

69 SOUTHWARK BRIDGE ROAD, S.E.

1900



PREFACE

THE verses gathered into this Volume were written in former years at various intervals. Through the benevolence of the kindest of Editors, some of them have appeared from time to time in the *Irish Monthly*. Some again, first printed so long ago as 1873, made a little Book of Poems, translated and original, in honour of Our Lady. This has long been out of print, but is to be found now in Part II.

Having received a suggestion and authorization from the esteemed brother in St. Philip to whose care and keeping our Cardinal Newman left his correspondence, the Translator now feels at liberty to quote the generous words with which the Cardinal accepted a copy of the *May Chaplet and other Poems*.

“THE ORATORY, *April 22, 1873.*

“ . . . I thank you very much for the volume of poems which you have been so kind as to send me. I mean it for a high compliment, and I hope you will take as such, if I say they read so easily and naturally that I should never take them for translations. Those which are original at the end of the volume, fluent as they are, do not run more fluently than those which you have taken from Father Philpin. . . .”

This praise from one so truly great is gratefully recorded here, not without a hope of securing for Verses thus honoured more attention than they have hitherto received from others.

The difficult task of translating French poetry into equivalent English verse was undertaken as a labour of fraternal love. "Vincit omnia amor." But the present work appears at this late hour chiefly because it has the honour and good fortune to be accorded a place among the publications of the Catholic Truth Society.

However, like every one else who writes verses, the Author feels that he ought to offer some excuse for these. Unless the following words of St. Bernard suggest some plea to the charity of those who have a right to explanation, he is without defence. "Scribere me aliquid et devotio jubet, et prohibet occupatio . . . id tantillum otii, quod vel mihi de somno fraudans in noctibus intercipere sinor, non sinam otiosam . . . ad quod opus faciendum etsi nulla Fratrum vel necessitas urgeat, vel utilitas moveat: dum tamen ex hoc non impediatur, quo ad quæque ipsorum necessaria minus paratus inveniatur, non arbitror eos gravari, si propriæ satisfacio devotioni" (*De Laudibus Virginis Matris*).

KENELM DIGBY BEST.

LONDON, 1900.

Feast of the Annunciation.

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