

than they have hitherto possessed ; and it is in accordance with these requests that he now presents " Farm Ballads " to the public.

Of course he does not expect to escape, what he needs so greatly, the discipline of severe criticism ; for he is aware that he has often wandered out of the beaten track, and has many times been too regardless of the established rules of rhythm, in his (oftentimes vain) search for the flowers of poesy.

But he believes that The People are, after all, the true critics, and will soon ascertain whether there are more good than poor things in a book ; and whatever may be their verdict in this case, he has made up his mind to be happy.

W. C.