

tify and befog the reader. In contradistinction I have attempted to keep as near the earth as possible, and endeavored to clothe my sentences in plain and home-spun attire. Some other poetasters, from their lack of wit, no doubt, have attempted to wring out bastard and weak puerility by mangling, distorting and misspelling the English language. These authors who thus pamper and pander to the vulgar taste, in my poor opinion are more to be pitied than despised.

No one that is conversant with the Scottish language can deny its rich beauty and its adaptation for lyric and descriptive composition. If I have failed to make this volume readable, the fault can not be attributed to the language, but on the other hand the demerit must be laid at the door of the author.

A few of the "Poems and Songs" first appeared in the *Scottish American Journal*, *Hamilton Times*, *Sarnia Observer*, and the *Detroit Daily Newspapers*, to the respective editors of which I return thanks for courtesies extended. The majority of the pieces, I may however state, appear in this collection for the first time.