

## PREFACE

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in such cases several sources of information were consulted before a decision was made.

It has been impossible to obtain the names of the authors of some poems culled from newspapers, or printed anonymously. This is a matter of regret. Any information that may be furnished giving the authorship of any of these anonymous extracts will be greatly received.

There are many notable tributes to the essential greatness of British rule and the high quality of British character from foreigners, but it was thought best to quote from Imperial poets only. Most selections are appropriate to the days for which they were chosen; in a few instances there is no direct connection, merely a stanza worth remembering, illustrating some typical phase of British life; and the thoughts of dead and living writers about the Empire and its problems have been varied by quotations containing words of warning, or reminders of the ideals which the British race has always upheld.

I would call the attention of the thoughtful reader to the following points:

1. The national religious feeling shown in the majority of the poems—the belief in a special mission, characteristic of no other people but the ancient Hebrews.
2. The national watchword—"Duty"—which runs like a golden thread through the lives and utterances of not one alone, but many of our heroes and poets.
3. The "sea-spirit" of the race, which in its original island home made the ocean its defence, then won it for an immutable kingdom, and is now striving dimly to comprehend that the world-wide Empire, founded upon the sea, can only continue to exist if the control of that vast highway is vested in one supreme all-