

P R E F A C E .

It is not without much hesitation and many misgivings that the author of the following poems allows them to pass the press. Perhaps no poet, and certainly no young poet, can estimate with precision the value of his work. Familiarity with his subjects, the reproduction of sympathies and emotions peculiar to himself, the very delight attending composition, all conspire to delude him, and to endear to him productions which may find but little place in the esteem of readers competent to judge. Hence it is that the author submits this, his first venture, to the ordeal of English criticism. He feels convinced that at the hands of those accustomed to assess the value of literary productions he will receive that candid criticism which will either be a guide to him in future or induce him to abandon the field of poetry altogether.

PERTH, Ontario, August 1st, 1868.