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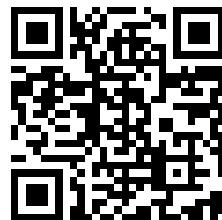
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THE
BOOK OF BATTLE SONGS

A COLLECTION OF

The War Songs of various Nations

AND A SELECTION OF CURIOUS POPULAR LYRICS, DOMESTIC AND
WARLIKE, CHIEFLY FROM THE LANGUAGES OF THE
NORTH AND THE EAST.

(RENDERED BY VARIOUS TRANSLATORS.)

WITH REMARKS ON

THE POETRY OF MARTIAL ENTHUSIASM

BY CYRIL ASTON FANSHAWE.

The land we from our fathers had in trust,
And to our children will transmit, or die :
This is our maxim, this our piety ;
And God and Nature say that it is just,
That which we *could* perform in arms—we must !
We read the dictate in the infant's eye ;
In the wife's smile ; and in the pluck'd sky ;
And at our feet amid the silent dust
Of them that were before us.—Sing aloud
Old songs, the precious music of the heart !
Give, herds and flocks ! your voices to the wind !
While we go forth, a self-devoted crew,
With weapons in the fearless hand, to assist
Our virtue, and to vindicate mankind.

WORDSWORTH.

LONDON :
JAMES HOGG AND SONS.
AND EDINBURGH.

“SONGS of our laud, ye are with us for ever :

The power and the splendour of thrones pass away ;
But yours is the might of some deep-rolling river,
Still flowing in freshness thro' things that decay.
Ye treasure the voices of long-vanish'd ages ;
Like our time-honoured towers, in beauty ye stand ;
Ye bring us the bright thoughts of poets and sages,
And keep them among us, old songs of our land.

“The bards may go down to the place of their slumbers,

The lyre of the charmer be hush'd in the grave ;
But far in the future the power of their numbers
Shall kindle the hearts of our faithful and brave.
It will waken an echo in souls deep and lonely, .
Like voices of reeds by the winter wind fann'd ;
It will call up a spirit of freedom, when only
Her breathings are heard in the songs of our land.

“For they keep a record of those, the true-hearted,

Who fell with the cause they had vow'd to maintain ;
They show us bright shadows of glory departed,
Of love unrewarded, and hope that was vain ;
The page may be lost, and the pen long-forsaken,
And weeds may grow wild o'er the brave heart and hand ;
But ye are still left when all else hath been taken,
Like streams in the desert—sweet songs of our land !”

P R E F A C E.

"THE USE OF WAR IS TO KEEP THE PEACE."

"BRAVERY NEVER GOES OUT OF FASHION."

"I think that we have great cause for gratitude and for pride, as a Nation, when we look back at what we have achieved for our own liberties and for the liberties of Europe, by a generous and manly use of the Weapon of the Sword."—DUKE OF ARGYLE'S *Speech at Dundee on "Peace and War."*

"O God, how full of wonder are thy ways! The tempest goes forth in destruction; but the skies are cleared by its appalling energy, and Nature, soon reviving, repairs its ravages with increased fertility. War, which is but too often the tempest of human passions, is also an agent of destruction, but its course awakens our highest energies, and in its final consequences the hand of a wise and benevolent Providence may not unfrequently be traced."—*Speech of LORD STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE, before laying the Foundation-Stone of the Memorial Church, Constantinople.*

A QUARTETT of mottoes—all true. I commend this Collection to all catholic-minded Students and Lovers of Song who value the Battle-Lyric for its grand and rugged power. I commend the Book to all who seek to cherish that calm and noble martial vigour in which are blent chivalrous feeling, patriotic ardour, and Christian sincerity.

May the Volume as it lies about tables, or taken down at odd moments from library shelves, fan some sparks of the Old British Valour!

C. A. F.

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NEW ZEALANDER'S BATTLE SONG.

BURGER.

HALLO, ye, my fellows ! arise and advance !
See the white-crested waves, how they stamp and they dance
High over the reef there with anger and might !
So wildly we dance to the bloody-red fight.

Then gather, now gather, come gather, ye all !
Each thing that hath limbs and arms, come at our call !
Like reeds on the moor, when the whirlwind sweeps by,
Our lances and war-axes darken the sky.

2 s

Sharp, sharp, as the tooth of the sea-horse and shark,
They'll bore ye, they'll split ye. Fly, lance, to the mark !
Home, home, to the heart ! and then, battle-axe grim,
Split, splintering and shivering, through brain-pan and limb

To-day we ask vengeance, to-day we ask blood ;
We ask it ; we're coming to make our word good ;
The storm flinches not, though the woods choke its path ;
We ask it ; we're coming,—beware of our wrath !

At home, wives and children a hearth for us lay ;
A savoury flesh-feast awaits us to-day :
Behind yonder mountains e'en now the smoke streams,
And the blaze of the brush-fire crackles and gleams.

Long, long, have we hungered and thirsted for you ;
At home the dogs lurk round the clean table, too ;
Loud shouting, we eat you to-night, every one,
Devour you clean to the white-ringing bone.

Rush, rush ye, my fellows, rush on them like hail !
Soon, soon, shall their roasting your nostrils regale ;
The fire is flaring ; the oven is a-glow !
Heave to now ! hew through now ! Halloha ! hallo !