

POETRY
AND
THE RENASCENCE OF WONDER

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

AYLWIN

OLD FAMILIAR FACES

POETRY
AND THE
RENASCENCE OF WONDER

BY
THEODORE
WATTS-DUNTON



NEW YORK
E. P. DUTTON & COMPANY
681 Fifth Avenue

PRINTED AT THE DEVONSHIRE PRESS, TORQUAY, ENGLAND.

INTRODUCTION

IT was my special privilege to be on intimate terms of friendship with the author for more than forty years. Soon after our first meeting at the house of my father, Dr. Gordon Hake, the "parable poet," we became in 1873, joint occupiers of a set of chambers in Great James Street, near Holborn. Here we had Swinburne for a neighbour, who, being at that moment engaged in the writing of *Bothwell*, invited us on many an occasion to assist at his readings from the "*drame épique*." It was in this "bardic atmosphere" in London that Watts-Dunton began to write on poetic criticism for the literary journals. His first essay, *The Lost Hamlet*, appeared at this time in the *New Monthly Magazine*. After a year's residence in Great James Street, we took a set of rooms in Danes' Inn; and it was now that my friend joined the *Examiner*, then under the editorship of Professor Minto. It was through Watts-Dunton's literary relations with Minto as will be seen, that he came to be invited