

The Book-Lover's Library.

# BOOK- VERSE

AN

ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS OF BOOKS AND  
BOOKMEN FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES  
TO RECENT YEARS

EDITED BY

W. ROBERTS

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Earlier History of English Bookselling,"  
"Printers' Marks," etc.*

"And out of old bookes, in good faithe,  
Cometh al this new science that men lere."  
CHAUCER, *The Assembly of Foules*

LONDON

ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW

1896

To  
HUMPHRY WARD



## PREFACE.

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**T**HE present volume is the pendant to "*Book-Song*," edited by Mr. Gleeson White and published in the BOOK-LOVER'S LIBRARY series two years ago. I am obliged to Mr. Gleeson White for several examples which were not sufficiently modern for his collection, which is comprised almost exclusively of verse written by living authors. The arrangement of the poems in this collection is chronological, but in instances where an author has written two or more sets of verses in praise of books, these have been kept together. In several cases it has not been possible to ascertain the exact date at which a particular poem

*was first written or printed. A few miscellaneous pieces are included together at the end of the volume. So many various readings exist of several of the poems quoted herein, that sometimes it has been no easy matter to decide which to select. Where, as in the case of Chaucer, the quaint old spelling adds a piquancy or expression to the lines, the text has not been interfered with; in a few cases, however, the orthography has been slightly modernised.*

W. R.

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*Dec. 21, 1895.*

