

Classic Poetry Series

Hume Nisbet
- poems -

Publication Date:

2012

Publisher:

Poemhunter.com - The World's Poetry Archive

Hume Nisbet(1849-1923)

James Hume Nisbet (8 August 1849 - 4 June 1923) was a Scottish-Australian author and artist.

Nisbet was born at Stirling, Scotland. At 16 years of age he came to Australia and stayed about seven years, during which he travelled widely. On returning to Scotland he was for eight years art master in the Watt College and the old school of arts. He travelled in Australia and New Guinea again during 1886, and paid another visit to Australia in 1895. He had studied painting under Sam Bough, R.S.A., but does not appear to have had any success; in a volume called *Where Art Begins*, published by him in 1892, he speaks with bitterness on the chances of success in painting.

He gave most of his time to writing and published many volumes of verse, books on art and fiction. Several of his novels are coloured by his Australian experiences and appear to have had some success. Miller in his *Australian Literature* lists about 40 novels published between 1888 and 1905. During the next 10 years he published a few more books including *Hathor and Other Poems*, which appeared as the first volume of his poetic and dramatic works in 1905. There was another edition in 1908.

Song Of Sardanapalus

I

'WHAT am I? a God or Man?
Man is God when great and rich —
God is man when in the ditch.
Ho, there! servers, fill each can!

2

'Drink! we live and so must die.
Love while we have power to love.
What care we who reigns above,
If we on the roses lie.

3

'Drink! and soak your hearts with wine.
Laugh, thus drive back haunting care.
While ye can think woman fair,
Ye are Gods, and all divine.'

Hume Nisbet