

(1907) MR Bertram

Mr. Bertram, in proposing "The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns," said it was a toast which would be honoured that night all over the world: The reason of his great popularity was that we loved the man as well as his poetry, for he was a heaven-born singer of unforgettable songs; but best of all, he was incomparably the most human and sympathetic of all our great men. Burns had a big, warm heart and a noble soul. Had he written nothing but "The Cottar's Saturday Night," "Man was Made to Mourn," "The Jolly Beggars" and "The Twa Dogs," he would have ranked as a poet of the highest class among his countrymen. But it is by his songs, the most faultless of all his writings, that his fame had spread farthest and would last longest. He was the acknowledged Prince of Songwriters. Most of all, we liked to think of the great poet who spent the last eight years of a very short life in Dumfriesshire, and who had made this district sacred to all who had been moved by the pathos and beauty of his songs.