

William Morris as a reviewer

We know that Morris hated reviewing, and undertook his one substantial effort of this kind, that of Rossetti's *Poems*, as an obligatory act of friendship. But here he reviews the poems of another friend—in the Socialist movement, J.L. Joynes, who had come like Morris into the S.D.F. on its formation. Joynes was a graduate of King's College, Cambridge, became a master at Eton, was first a follower of Henry George, then a convinced Socialist, and had to resign from Eton. He had early read and translated the poems of Freiligrath, and now, in 1885, published his own poetry, which Morris reviewed in *Commonweal* in April 1885.

Socialist Rhymes, by J.L. Joynes. Modern Press, 13 & 14 Paternoster Row.

We heartily recommend these rhymes to our readers; the verse is nearly everywhere brilliant and spirited, and in some of the pieces the depth of feeling raises them into the rank of poetry of no mean order. Sincerity and enthusiasm are obvious throughout the whole of them, and must make some impression on those who read them, even if they are not wholly on our side. John Ruskin once wrote that 'A cause which cannot be sung of is not worth following.' We have to thank Mr. Joynes for his share in demonstrating that Socialism cannot fall under this condemnation at all events.—W.M.

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