

Lo-saxox POETRY. Untrod. numerous manuscripts which the hand of time has spared to us, the lighter literature of our Saxon forefathers presents itself continually under many varying forms. A I. A nglo-S axon Poetry and Romance. 1. The first records of the A nglo-S axons carry us back to that state of society in which all literature is comprised under the one characteristic head of poetry; and all literary genius centres in one person, the minstrel, who equally composed and sang. This was the literature which, in the year 449, the Saxons brought with them into our island ;and during the first period of their establishment poetry held a high rank both by its comparative importance and by its own intrinsic beauties. Life itself, and the language of life, were in those early ages essentially poetic; man lived and acted according to his impulses and passions; he was unacquainted with the business-like movements and feelings of more civilized existence; when he was not occupied in imitating the famous deeds of his forefathers, he listened to the words of the minstrel who celebrated them. The song in which were told the gigantic movements of an earlier period, already clothed in a traditionary garb of the supernatural, was the instrument to which his mind owed its culture ;his very conversation was moulded upon it, and even in the transactions of the council he spake in poetry. A mong the many examples of the poetic feeling of the Saxons, furnished by old historians, Bede gives us one which is peculiarly beautiful.(Typographical errors above are due to OCR software and dont occur in the book.)About the Publisher Forgotten Books is a publisher of historical writings, such as: Philosophy, Classics, Science, Religion, History, Folklore and Mythology.Forgotten Books Classic Reprint Series utilizes the latest technology to regenerate facsimiles of historically important writings. Careful

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