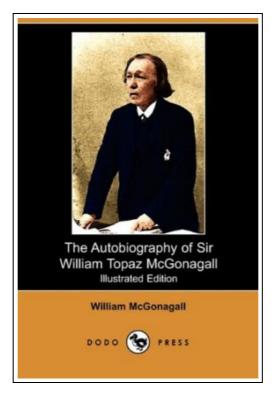
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Dodo Press, United Kingdom, 2010. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.William Topaz McGonagall (1825-1902) was a Scottish weaver, actor and poet. He has been widely acclaimed as the worst poet in British history. The chief criticisms of his poetry are that he is deaf to poetic metaphor and unable to scan correctly. In the hands of lesser artists, this might simply generate dull, uninspiring verse. However, McGonagall s fame stems from the humourous effects these shortcomings generate. The inappropriate rhythms, weak vocabulary, and illadvised imagery combine to make his work amongst the most spontaneously amusing comic poetry in the English language. Of the 200 or so poems that he wrote, the most famous is probably The Tay Bridge Disaster, which recounts the events of the evening of 28 December 1879, when, during a severe gale, the Tay Rail Bridge near Dundee collapsed as a train was passing over it. He also campaigned vigorously against excessive drinking, appearing in pubs and bars to give edifying poems and speeches. These were very popular, the people of Dundee possibly recognising that McGonagall was so giftedly bad he backed unwittingly into genius.



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