

Henry Kendall.

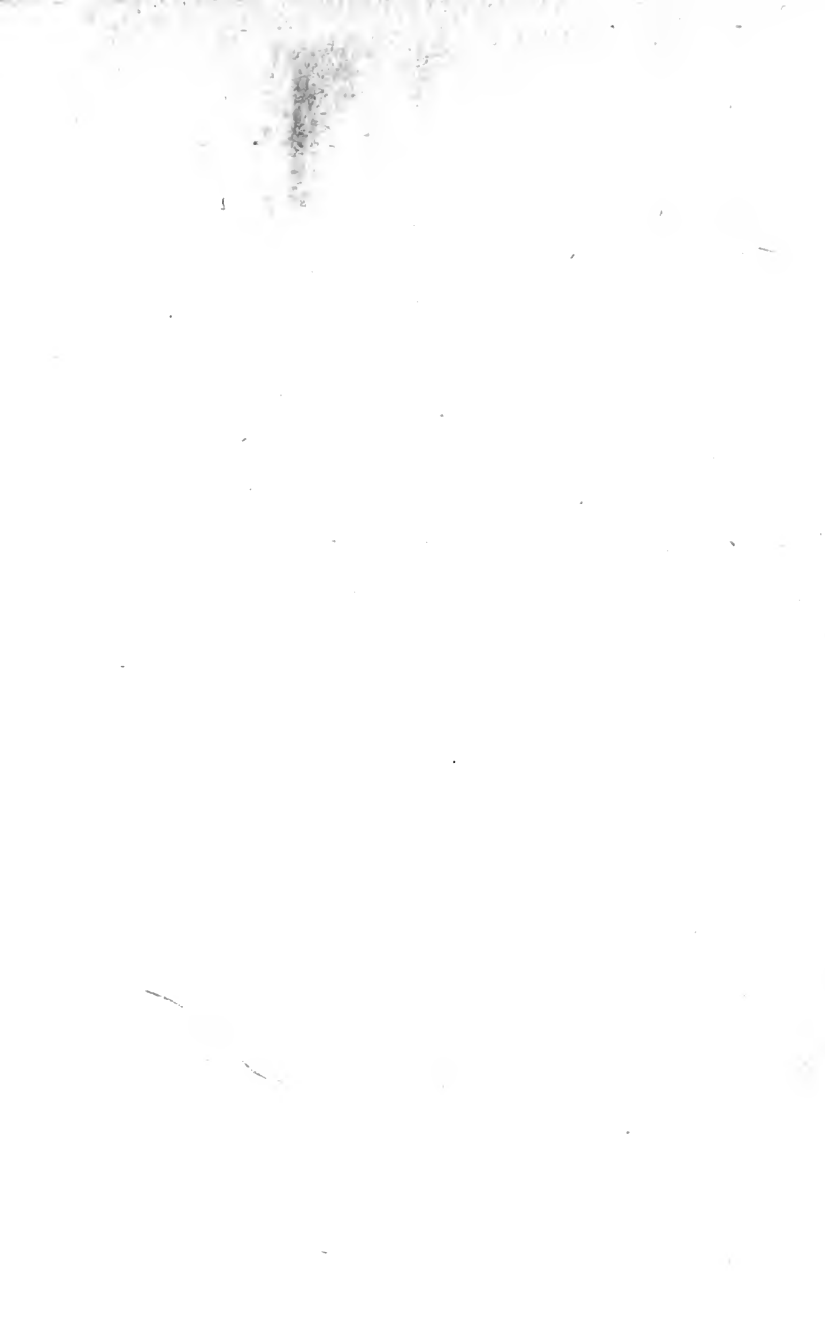
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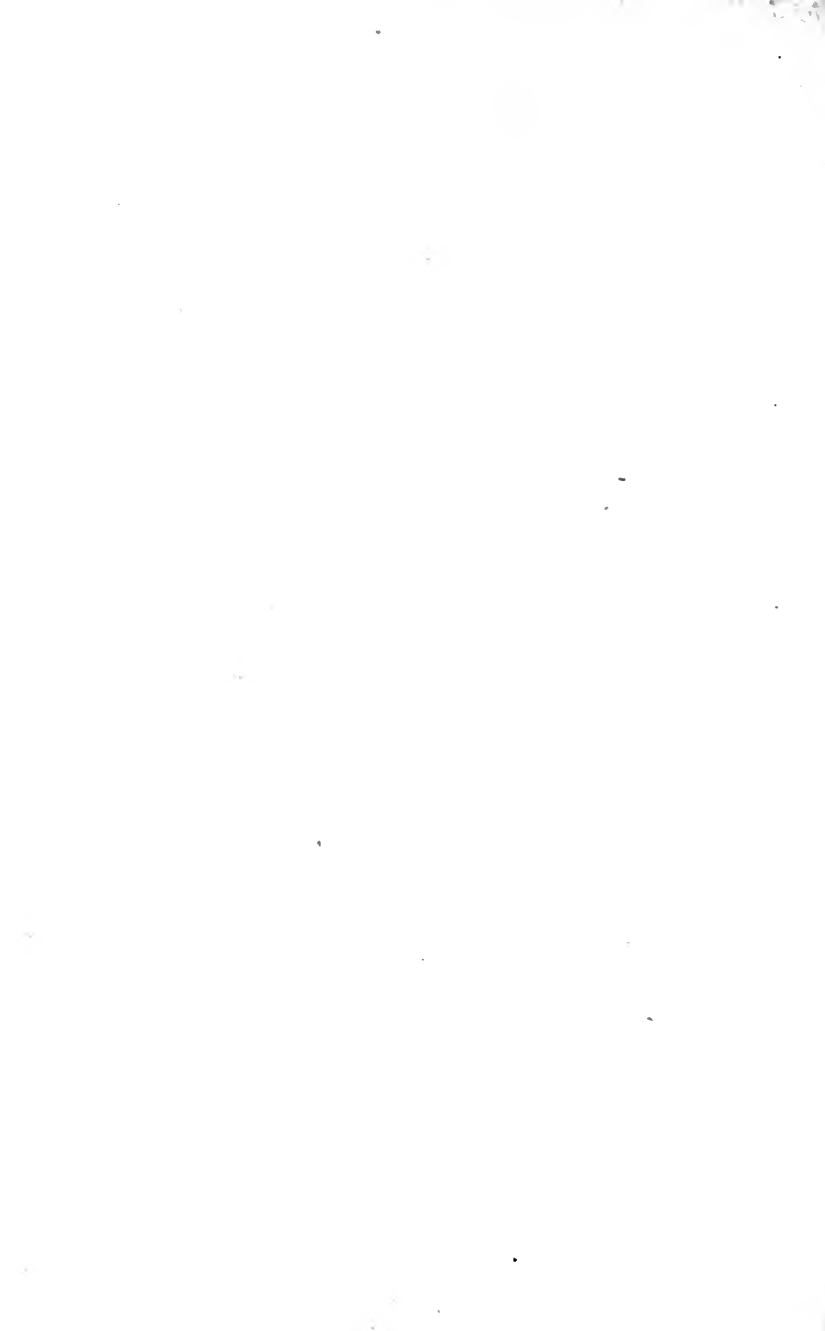
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POEMS
OF
HENRY CLARENCE KENDALL



POEMS OF HENRY CLARENCE KENDALL

With Memoir by Frederick C.
Kendall ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

REVISED AND
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GENERAL

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A MEMOIR OF HENRY KENDALL

BY FREDERICK C. KENDALL

AMONG the first white residents of New Zealand early in the last century, were four courageous English missionaries, who settled at the Bay of Islands. The leader of these pioneers was a clergyman named Thomas Kendall who, after a long period of labour in Maoriland, and a subsequent sojourn in South America, retired in 1827 to New South Wales, where he received from the Government, in recognition of his services, a grant of land near Ulladulla, on the south coast. There he engaged in the timber trade, and lost his life by shipwreck on a voyage to Sydney. He left several sons, one of whom, Basil, the poet's father, had led an adventurous seafaring life, serving at one time under that noted rover Lord Dundonald. Basil married in Sydney a Miss McNally, the granddaughter of an Irish lawyer and playwright named Leonard McNally, who flourished in the days of Burke and Grattan. On a lonely farm near Ulladulla, where Basil and his wife had settled, twin sons were born to them on April 18, 1841, one of these being Henry Kendall, the future poet. The family afterwards re-

moved to the Clarence River. In Basil Kendall a cultured mind and fine character were united with a delicate constitution, and after some years of misfortune and sickness, brightened for him only by the careful tuition of his children, he died in 1851, when Henry Kendall (my father) was ten years old. The children were cared for and schooled by relatives in Illawarra, where my father passed three impressionable years, in a district of surpassing beauty, entering into that communion with Nature which was to be the inspiration and essence of his song. When fourteen years old he was taken on a whaling voyage by one of his uncles for two years, an experience to be recalled only by two poems, "The Ballad of Tanna," and "Beyond Kerguelen." In 1857 my father, then a nervous, delicate lad of sixteen, struck out for himself in Sydney, finding work here and there. He next became clerk to a Grafton solicitor, James Lionel Michael. Himself a cultured book-lover and a versifier of no mean order, Michael encouraged the literary bent of the lad, who soon became more a friend than an employé. There was a well-selected library in the house, of the treasures in which my father freely availed himself. Early in the sixties his first poetical work began to appear in the columns of the Sydney press. The promise even then patent in his verse attracted the friendship of men like Henry Parkes, then Editor of the *Empire*, Charles Harpur the poet, Daniel Henry Deniehy, orator and critic, and Dr. Woolley of the Sydney University. A very

favourable notice by *The Athenæum* of some manuscripts which my father had submitted to that great arbiter of English letters emboldened him to compile a small volume, *Poems and Songs*, which was issued in 1862 by Mr. Clarke, a Sydney publisher. The most enduring work in this early volume is reprinted at the end of the present edition.

After Michael's death, in 1865, my father entered the public service as a clerk in the Survey Office at Sydney, and was subsequently similarly employed in the Colonial Secretary's office. In 1868 he married Charlotte, the daughter of Dr. Thomas Rutter, a Government medical officer. To the great devotion of his wife he pays a beautiful tribute in the dedicatory poem of his second volume, *Leaves from Australian Forests*, which was published by Messrs. Geo. Robertson & Co. at Melbourne in 1870, and comprised a selection of verses that proved the author beyond all doubt a possessor of poetical genius.

Wearying of official routine, and fondly believing that a competence was obtainable by literary work in Melbourne, my father removed to that city in 1869. The venture was followed by some years of disappointment and trial, for the time had not arrived in Australia—if it has arrived since—when devotion to a higher Australian literature could command an audience sufficient to ensure even a modest remuneration. My father contributed to the press in Melbourne and became acquainted with most of the men of letters there, including "Orion" Horne,

Marcus Clarke, and Adam Lindsay Gordon. He was always a good correspondent, and his letters to and from other Australian writers, from the days of Harpur to those of Brunton Stephens, would furnish reading of much interest to many to-day.

After the death of his first-born daughter Araluen—so richly and tenderly enshrined in the poem of that name—my father returned to Sydney in 1871. He was next engaged as accountant by a Sydney timber firm, the members of which were thenceforward his closest friends, and resided first at Brisbane Water and later at Camden Haven, on the north coast, where the firm had established an agency. Here in a quiet forest home he spent several happy, uneventful years, during which he was a constant contributor in prose and verse to the leading Australian journals. On the opening of the Sydney International Exhibition in 1879, he secured with one of the finest poems ever written on a set subject the prize of a hundred guineas, offered by the *Sydney Morning Herald* for the best verses commemorative of that event. *Songs from the Mountains*, his last and best volume, appeared in 1880. In that work Australian poetry attained to classic beauty and clinched its right to world-wide recognition. In 1881 my father's practical acquaintance with the timber industry was remembered by Sir Henry Parkes, then Colonial Secretary and ever a thoughtful friend, who appointed him to the post of Inspector of Forests. After a year's work a severe cold, caught whilst riding on duty in the

Lachlan district, told upon a constitution which was never robust, and my father had to return to Sydney in the first stages of consumption. He made an essay to resume duty, but was this time carried back to St. Vincent's Hospital as a private patient, and afterwards removed to the residence of an intimate friend. There, although tenderly nursed by my mother, he gradually sank, and passed quietly away on August 1, 1882. He was buried at Waverley Cemetery, "by the cliffs of the sea," where some years later a memorial column erected by unforgetting friends was publicly unveiled. To the inscription thereon, the graceful suggestion of the late W. B. Dalley, an old friend added Shelley's beautiful lines—

Awake him not ! surely he takes his fill
Of deep and liquid rest, forgetful of all ill.

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LEAVES FROM AUSTRALIAN
FORESTS



DEDICATION

TO her who, cast with me in trying days,
 Stood in the place of health and power and
 praise ;

Who, when I thought all light was out, became
A lamp of hope that put my fears to shame ;
Who faced for love's sole sake the life austere
That waits upon the man of letters here ;
Who, unawares, her deep affection showed
By many a touching little wifely mode ;
Whose spirit, self-denying, dear, divine,
Its sorrows hid, so it might lessen mine—
To her, my bright, best friend, I dedicate
This book of songs—'t will help to compensate
For much neglect. The act, if not the rhyme,
Will touch her heart, and lead her to the time
Of trials past. That which is most intense
Within these leaves is of her influence ;
And if aught here is sweetened with a tone
Sincere, like love, it came of love alone.

PREFATORY SONNETS

I.

I PURPOSED once to take my pen and write,
Not songs, like some, tormented and awry
With passion, but a cunning harmony
Of words and music caught from glen and height,
And lucid colours born of woodland light
And shining places where the sea-streams lie.
But this was when the heat of youth glowed white,
And since I've put the faded purpose by.
I have no faultless fruits to offer you
Who read this book ; but certain syllables
Herein are borrowed from unfooted dells
And secret hollows dear to noontide dew ;
And these at least, though far between and few,
May catch the sense like subtle forest spells.

II.

So take these kindly, even though there be
Some notes that unto other lyres belong,
Stray echoes from the elder sons of song;
And think how from its neighbouring native sea
The pensive shell doth borrow melody.

I would not do the lordly masters wrong
By filching fair words from the shining throng
Whose music haunts me as the wind a tree!

Lo, when a stranger in soft Syrian glooms
Shot through with sunset treads the cedar dells,
And hears the breezy ring of elfin bells

Far down by where the white-haired cataract
booms,
He, faint with sweetness caught from forest smells,
Bears thence, unwitting, plunder of perfumes.

ARALUEN¹

RIVER, myrtle rimmed, and set
 Deep among unfooted dells—
Daughter of grey hills of wet,
 Born by mossed and yellow wells.

Now that soft September lays
 Tender hands on thee and thine,
Let me think of blue-eyed days,
 Star-like flowers, and leaves of shine:

Cities soil the life with rust,
 Water banks are cool and sweet ;
River, tired of noise and dust,
 Here I come to rest my feet.

Now the month from shade to sun
 Fleets and sings supremest songs,
Now the wilful wood-winds run
 Through the tangled cedar throngs.

¹ A stream on the east coast of New South Wales, in the Braidwood district.

Here are cushioned tufts and tarns
Where the sumptuous noontide lies :
Here are seen by flags and ferns
Summer's large, luxurious eyes.

On this spot wan Winter casts
Eyes of ruth, and spares its green
From his bitter sea-nursed blasts,
Spears of rain, and hailstones keen.

Rather here abideth Spring,
Lady of a lovely land,
Dear to leaf and fluttering wing,
Deep in blooms—by breezes fanned.

Faithful friend beyond the main,
Friend that time nor change makes cold ;
Now, like ghosts, return again
Pallid, perished days of old.

Ah ! the days, the old, old theme,
Never stale, but never new,
Floating like a pleasant dream,
Back to me and back to you:

Since we rested on these slopes
Seasons fierce have beaten down
Ardent loves and blossoming hopes—
Loves that lift, and hopes that crown.

But, believe me, still mine eyes
Often fill with light that springs
From divinity, which lies
Ever at the heart of things.

Solace do I sometimes find
Where you used to hear with me
Songs of stream and forest wind,
Tones of waves and harp-like tree.

Araluen ! home of dreams,
Fairer for its flowerful glade
Than the face of Persian streams
Or the slopes of Syrian shade.

Why should I still love it so,
Friend and brother far away ?
Ask the winds that come and go
What hath brought me here to-day.

Evermore of you I think,
When the leaves begin to fall,
Where our river breaks its brink,
And a rest is over all.

Evermore in quiet lands,
Friend of mine beyond the sea,
Memory comes with cunning hands,
Stays, and paints your face for me.

BELL-BIRDS

BY channels of coolness the echoes are calling,
And down the dim gorges I hear the creek
falling ;

It lives in the mountain, where moss and the sedges
Touch with their beauty the banks and the ledges ;
Through brakes of the cedar and sycamore bowers
Struggles the light that is love to the flowers.

And, softer than slumber, and sweeter than singing,

The notes of the bell-birds are running and ringing.

The silver-voiced bell-birds, the darlings of day-time,
They sing in September their songs of the May-time.
When shadows wax strong, and the thunder-bolts
hurtle,

They hide with their fear in the leaves of the myrtle ;
When rain and the sunbeams shine mingled together
They start up like fairies that follow fair weather,
And straightway the hues of their feathers unfold
Are the green and the purple, the blue and the
golden.

October, the maiden of bright yellow tresses,
Loiters for love in these cool wildernesses ;

Loiters knee-deep in the grasses to listen,
Where dripping rocks gleam and the leafy pools
 glisten.

Then is the time when the water-moons splendid
Break with their gold, and are scattered or blended
Over the creeks, till the woodlands have warning
Of songs of the bell-bird and wings of the morning.

Welcome as waters unkissed by the summers
Are the voices of bell-birds to thirsty far-comers.
When fiery December sets foot in the forest,
And the need of the wayfarer presses the sorest,
Pent in the ridges for ever and ever,
The bell-bird directs him to spring and to river,
With ring and with ripple, like runnels whose tor-
 rents
Are toned by the pebbles and leaves in the currents.

Often I sit, looking back to a childhood
Mixt with the sights and the sounds of the wildwood,
Longing for power and the sweetness to fashion
Lyrics with beats like the heart-beats of passion—
Songs interwoven of lights and of laughters
Borrowed from bell-birds in far forest rafters ;
So I might keep in the city and alleys
The beauty and strength of the deep mountain
 valleys,
Charming to slumber the pain of my losses
With glimpses of creeks and a vision of mosses.

A DEATH IN THE BUSH

THE hut was built of bark and shrunken slabs,
That wore the marks of many rains, and showed
Dry flaws wherein had crept and nestled rot.
Moreover, round the bases of the bark
Were left the tracks of flying forest fires,
As you may see them on the lower bole
Of every elder of the native woods.

For, ere the early settlers came and stocked
These wilds with sheep and kine, the grasses grew
So that they took the passing pilgrim in
And whelmed him, like a running sea, from sight.

And therefore, through the fiercer summer months,
While all the swamps were rotten; while the flats
Were baked and broken; when the clayey rifts
Yawned wide, half-choked with herbage drifted past,
Spontaneous flames would burst from thence and race
Across the prairies all day long.

At night
The winds were up, and then, with four-fold speed
A harsh gigantic growth of smoke and fire

Would roar along the bottoms, in the wake
Of fainting flocks of parrots, wallaroos,
And 'wildered wild things, scattering right and left
For safety vague, throughout the general gloom.

Anon the nearer hillside-growing trees
Would take the surges ; thus from bough to bough
Was borne the flaming terror ! Bole and spire,
Rank after rank, now pillared, ringed, and rolled
In blinding blaze, stood out against the dead,
Down-smothered dark, for fifty leagues away.

For fifty leagues ! and when the winds were strong
For fifty more ! But in the olden time
These fires were counted as the harbingers
Of life-essential storms, since out of smoke
And heat there came across the midnight ways
Abundant comfort, with upgathered clouds
And runnels babbling of a plenteous fall.

So comes the southern gale at evenfall
About the streets of Sydney, when the dust
Lies burnt on glaring windows, and the men
Look forth from doors of drouth and drink the change
With thirsty haste, and that most thankful cry
Of " Here it is—the cool, bright, blessed rain ! "

The hut, I say, was built of bark and slabs,
And stood, the centre of a clearing, hemmed

By hurdle-yards, and ancients of the blacks ;
These moped about their lazy fires, and sang
Wild ditties of the old days, with a sound
Of sorrow, like an everlasting wind
Which mingled with the echoes of the moon
And moaned amongst the noises of the night.

From thence a cattle track, with link to link,
Ran off against the fish-pools to the gap
Which sets you face to face with gleaming miles
Of broad Orara,¹ winding in amongst
Black, barren ridges, where the nether spurs
Are fenced about by cotton scrub, and grass
Blue-bitten with the salt of many droughts.

'Twas here the shepherd housed him every night,
And faced the prospect like a patient soul,
Borne up by some vague hope of better days,
And God's fine blessing in his faithful wife,
Until the humour of his malady
Took cunning changes from the good to bad,
And laid him lastly on a bed of death.

Two months thereafter, when the summer heat
Had roused the serpent from his rotten lair;
And made a noise of locusts in the boughs,
It came to this, that as the blood-red sun

¹ A stream on the east coast of New South Wales, north of the Hunter.

Of one fierce day of many slanted down
Obliquely past the nether jags of peaks
And gulfs of mist, the tardy night came vexed
By belted clouds and scuds that wheeled and whirled
To left and right about the brazen cliffs
Of ridges, rigid with a leaden gloom:

Then took the cattle to the forest camps
With vacant terror, and the hustled sheep
Stood dumb against the hurdles, even like
A fallen patch of shadowed mountain snow;
And ever, through the curlew's call afar,
The storm grew on, while round the stinted slabs
Sharp snaps and hisses came, and went, and came,
The huddled tokens of a mighty blast
Which ran with an exceeding bitter cry
Across the tumbled fragments of the hills,
And through the sluices of the gorge and glen.

So, therefore, all about the shepherd's hut
That space was mute, save when the fastened dog,
Without a kennel, caught a passing glimpse
Of firelight moving through the lighted chinks,
For then he knew the hints of warmth within,
And stood and set his great pathetic eyes,
In wind and wet, imploring to be loosed.

Not often now the watcher left the couch
Of him she watched, since in his fitful sleep
His lips would stir to wayward themes, and close

With bodeful catches. Once she moved away,
Half-deafened by terrific claps, and stooped
And looked without : to see a pillar dim
Of gathered gusts and fiery rain.

Anon

The sick man woke, and, startled by the noise,
Stared round the room with dull, delirious sight,
At this wild thing and that : for through his eyes
The place took fearful shapes, and fever showed
Strange crosswise lights about his pillow-head.
He, catching there at some phantasmic help,
Sat upright on the bolster with a cry
Of " Where is Jesus ? It is bitter cold ! "
And then, because the thunder-calls outside
Were mixed for him with slanders of the past,
He called his weeping wife by name, and said,
" Come closer, darling ! we shall speed away
Across the seas, and seek some mountain home
Shut in from liars and the wicked words
That track us day and night and night and day."

So waned the sad refrain. And those poor lips,
Whose latest phrases were for peace, grew mute,
And into everlasting silence passed.

As fares a swimmer who hath lost his breath
In 'wilderling seas afar from any help—
Who, fronting Death, can never realize
The dreadful Presence, but is prone to clutch

At every weed upon the weltering wave—
So fared the watcher, poring o'er the last
Of him she loved, with dazed and stupid stare ;
Half conscious of the sudden loss and lack
Of all that bound her life, but yet without
The power to take her mighty sorrow in.

Then came a patch or two of starry sky,
And through a reef of cloven thunder-cloud
The soft moon looked : a patient face beyond
The fierce impatient shadows of the slopes
And the harsh voices of the broken hills !
A patient face, and one which came and wrought
A lovely silence, like a silver mist,
Across the rainy relics of the storm.

For in the breaks and pauses of her light
The gale died out in gusts : yet, evermore
About the roof-tree on the dripping eaves,
The damp wind loitered, and a fitful drift
Sloped through the silent curtains, and athwart
The dead:

There, when the glare had dropped behind
A mighty ridge of gloom, the woman turned
And sat in darkness, face to face with God,
And said, " I know," she said, " that Thou art wise ;
That when we build and hope, and hope and build,
And see our best things fall, it comes to pass
For evermore that we must turn to Thee !

And therefore, now, because I cannot find,
The faintest tokens of Divinity
In this my latest sorrow, let Thy light
Inform mine eyes, so I may learn to look
On something past the sight which shuts and blinds
And seems to drive me wholly, Lord, from Thee.'

Now waned the moon beyond complaining depths,
And as the dawn looked forth from showery woods
(Whereon had dropped a hint of red and gold)
There went about the crooked cavern-eaves
Low flute-like echoes, with a noise of wings,
And waters flying down far-hidden fells.
Then might be seen the solitary owl
Perched in the clefts; scared at the coming light,
And staring outward (like a sea-shelled thing
Chased to his cover by some bright, fierce foe),
As at a monster in the middle waste.

At last the great kingfisher came, and called
Across the hollows, loud with early whips,
And lighted, laughing, on the shepherd's hut,
And roused the widow from a swoon like death.

This day, and after it was noised abroad,
By blacks, and straggling horsemen on the roads,
That he was dead "who had been sick so long,"
There flocked a troop from far-surrounding runs,
To see their neighbour, and to bury him;

And men who had forgotten how to cry
(Rough, flinty fellows of the native bush)
Now learned the bitter way, beholding there
The wasted shadow of an iron frame,
Brought down so low by years of fearful pain,
And marking, too, the woman's gentle face,
And all the pathos in her moaned reply
Of "Masters, we have lived in better days."

One stooped—a stockman from the nearer hills—
To loose his wallet-strings, from whence he took
A bag of tea, and laid it on her lap ;
Then sobbing, "God will help you, missus, yet,"
He sought his horse, with most bewildered eyes,
And, spurring, swiftly galloped down the glen.

Where black Orara nightly chafes his brink,
Midway between lamenting lines of oak
And Warra's Gap, the shepherd's grave was built ;
And there the wild dog pauses, in the midst
Of moonless watches, howling through the gloom
At hopeless shadows flitting to and fro,
What time the east wind hums his darkest hymn,
And rains beat heavy on the ruined leaf.

There, while the autumn in the cedar trees
Sat cooped about by cloudy evergreens
The widow sojourned on the silent road,
And mutely faced the barren mound, and plucked
A straggling shrub from thence, and passed away,

Heart-broken, on to Sydney, where she took
Her passage, in an English vessel bound
To London, for her home of other years.

At rest ! Not near, with Sorrow on his grave,
And roses quickened into beauty—wrapt
In all the pathos of perennial bloom ;
But far from these, beneath the fretful clay
Of lands within the lone perpetual cry
Of hermit plovers and the night-like oaks,
All moaning for the peace which never comes.

At rest ! And she who sits and waits behind
Is in the shadows ; but her faith is sure,
And *one* fine promise of the coming days
Is breaking, like a blessed morning, far
On hills that “ slope through darkness up to God.”

THE HUT BY THE BLACK SWAMP

NOW comes the fierce north-easter, bound
About with clouds and racks of rain,
And dry, dead leaves go whirling round
In rings of dust, and sigh like pain
Across the plain:

Now twilight, with a shadowy hand
Of wild dominionship, doth keep
Strong hold of hollow straits of land,
And watery sounds are loud and deep
By gap and steep.

Keen, fitful gusts, that fly before
The wings of storm when day hath shut
Its eyes on mountains, flaw by flaw,
Fleet down by whistling box-tree butt,
Against the hut.

And, ringed and girt with lurid pomp,
Far eastern cliffs start up, and take
Thick steaming vapours from a swamp
That lieth like a great blind lake,
Of face opaque:

The moss that, like a tender grief,
 About an English ruin clings—
 What time the wan autumnal leaf
 Faints, after many wanderings
 On windy wings—

That gracious growth, whose quiet green
 Is as a love in days austere,
 Was never seen—hath never been—
 On slab or roof, deserted here
 For many a year.

Nor comes the bird whose speech is song—
 Whose songs are silvery syllables
 That unto glimmering woods belong,
 And deep, meandering mountain dells
 By yellow wells.

But rather here the wild-dog halts,
 And lifts the paw, and looks, and howls ;
 And here, in ruined forest vaults,
 Abide dim, dark, death-featured owls,
 Like monks in cowls.

Across this hut the nettle runs,
 And livid adders make their lair
 In corners dank from lack of suns,
 And out of fœtid furrows stare
 The growths that scare.

THE HUT BY THE BLACK SWAMP 23

Here Summer's grasp of fire is laid
On bark and slabs that rot, and breed
Squat ugly things of deadly shade,
The scorpion, and the spiteful seed
Of centipede:

Unhallowed thunders, harsh and dry,
And flaming noontides, mute with heat,
Beneath the breathless, brazen sky,
Upon these rifted rafters beat
With torrid feet:

And night by night the fitful gale
Doth carry past the bittern's boom,
The dingo's yell, the plover's wail,
While lumbering shadows start, and loom,
And hiss through gloom:

No sign of grace—no hope of green
Cool-blossomed seasons marks the spot ;
But chained to iron doom, I ween,
'Tis left, like skeleton, to rot
Where ruth is not.

For on this hut hath murder writ,
With bloody fingers, hellish things ;
And God will never visit it
With flower or leaf of sweet-faced Springs,
Or gentle wings:

ILLA CREEK

A STRONG sea-wind flies up and sings
Across the blown-wet border,
Whose stormy echo runs and rings
Like bells in wild disorder.

Fierce breath hath vexed the foreland's face,
It glistens, glooms, and glistens ;
But deep within this quiet place
Sweet Illa lies and listens.

Sweet Illa of the shining sands,
She sleeps in shady hollows,
Where August flits with flowerful hands,
And silver Summer follows.

Far up the naked hills is heard
A noise of many waters,
But green-haired Illa lies unstirred
Amongst her star-like daughters.

The tempest, pent in moaning ways,
Awakes the shepherd yonder,
But Illa dreams unknown to days
Whose wings are wind and thunder.

Here fairy hands and floral feet
Are brought by bright October ;
Here, stained with grapes and smit with heat,
Comes Autumn, sweet and sober.

Here lovers rest, what time the red
And yellow colours mingle,
And daylight droops with dying head
Beyond the western dingle.

And here, from month to month, the time
Is kissed by peace and pleasure,
While Nature sings her woodland rhyme
And hoards her woodland treasure.

Oh, Illa Creek ! ere evening spreads
Her wings o'er towns unshaded,
How oft we seek thy mossy beds
To lave our foreheads faded !

For, let me whisper, then we find
The strength that lives, nor falters,
In wood and water, waste and wind,
And hidden mountain altars.

COOGEE

SING the song of wave-worn Coogee, Coogee in
the distance white,
With its jags and points, disrupted, gaps and frac-
tures fringed with light ;
Haunt of gledes, and restless plovers of the melan-
choly wail,
Ever lending deeper pathos to the melancholy gale.
There, my brothers, down the fissures, chasms deep
and wan and wild,
Grows the sea-bloom, one that blushes like a
shrinking, fair, blind child ;
And amongst the oozing forelands many a glad
green rock-vine runs,
Getting ease on earthy ledges, sheltered from De-
cember suns.

Often, when a gusty morning, rising cold and grey
and strange,
Lifts its face from watery spaces, vistas full with
cloudy change,
Bearing up a gloomy burden which anon begins to
wane,
Fading in the sudden shadow of a dark deter-
mined rain,

Do I seek an eastern window, so to watch the
breakers beat
Round the steadfast crags of Coogee, dim with
drifts of driving sleet :
Hearing hollow mournful noises sweeping down a
solemn shore,
While the grim sea-caves are tideless, and the
storm strives at their core.

Often when the floating vapours fill the silent
autumn leas,
Dreaming mem'ries fall like moonlight over silver
sleeping seas,
Youth and I and Love together ! other times and
other themes
Come to me unsung, unwept for, through the faded
evening gleams.
Come to me and touch me mutely—I that looked
and longed so well,
Shall I look and yet forget them ?—who may know
or who foretell ?
Though the southern wind roams, shadowed with
its immemorial grief,
Where the frosty wings of Winter leave their white-
ness on the leaf.

Friend of mine beyond the waters, here and here
these perished days
Haunt me with their sweet dead faces and their
old divided ways.

You that helped and you that loved me take this
song, and when you read
Let the lost things come about you, set your
thoughts, and hear and heed.
Time has laid his burden on us—we who wear our
manhood now,
We would be the boys we have been, free of heart
and bright of brow,
Be the boys for just an hour, with the splendour
and the speech
Of thy lights and thunders, Coogee, flying up thy
gleaming beach.

Heart's desire and heart's division! who would
come and say to me,
With the eyes of far-off friendship, "You are as
you used to be" ?
Something glad and good has left me here with
sickening discontent,
Tired of looking, neither knowing what it was or
where it went.
So it is this sight of Coogee, shining in the morning
dew,
Sets me stumbling through dim summers once on
fire with youth and you—
Summers pale as southern evenings when the year
has lost its power
And the wasted face of April weeps above the
withered flower.

Not that seasons bring no solace, not that time
lacks light and rest,

But the old things were the dearest, and the old
loves seem the best.

We that start at songs familiar, we that tremble
at a tone

Floating down the ways of music, like a sigh of
sweetness flown,

We can never feel the freshness, never find again
the mood

Left among fair-featured places, brightened of our
brotherhood.

This and this we have to think of when the night
is over all

And the woods begin to perish, and the rains begin
to fall:

GHOST GLEN

“SHUT your ears, stranger, or turn from Ghost
Glen now,
For the paths are grown over, untrodden by men
now ;
Shut your ears, stranger,” saith the grey mother,
crooning
Her sorcery runic, when sets the half-moon in.

To-night the north-easter goes travelling slowly,
But it never stoops down to that hollow unholy ;
To-night it rolls loud on the ridges red-litten,
But it cannot abide in that forest, sin-smitten.

For over the pitfall the moon-dew is thawing,
And with never a body two shadows stand sawing—
The wraiths of two sawyers (step under and under),
Who did a foul murder and were blackened with
thunder !

Whenever the storm-wind comes driven and driving,
Through the blood-spattered timber you may see the
saw striving—

You may see the saw heaving, and falling, and
heaving,

Whenever the sea-creek is chafing and grieving !

And across a burnt body, as black as an adder,
Sits the sprite of a sheep-dog (was ever sight sadder ?)
For, as the dry thunder splits louder and faster,
The sprite of a sheep-dog howls for his master.

“ Oh, count your beads deftly,” saith the grey mother,
crooning

Her sorcery runic, when sets the half-moon in.
And well may she mutter, for the dark, hollow laughter
You will hear in the sawpits and the bloody logs after.

Aye, count your beads deftly, and keep your ways
wary,

For the sake of the Saviour and sweet mother Mary.
Pray for your peace in these perilous places,
And pray for the laying of horrible faces.

One starts, with a forehead all wrinkled and livid,
Aghast at the lightnings sudden and vivid ;
One telleth, with curses, the gold that they drew there
(Ah ! cross your breast humbly) from him whom they
slew there :

The stranger, who came from the loved, the romantic
Island that sleeps on the moaning Atlantic,
Leaving behind him a patient home, yearning
For the steps in the distance—never returning ;

Who was left in the forest, shrunken and starkly,
Burnt by his slayers (so men have said, darkly),
With the half-crazy sheep-dog, who cowered beside
 there,
And yelled at the silence, and marvelled, and died
 there.

Yea, cross your breast humbly, and hold your breath
 tightly,
Or fly for your life from those shadows unsightly,
From the set staring features (cold, and so young,
 too),
And the death on the lips that a mother hath clung
 to.

I tell you, that bushman is braver than most men
Who even in daylight doth go through the Ghost
 Glen,
Although in that hollow unholy and lonely
He sees the dank sawpits and bloody logs only.

MOSS ON A WALL

DIM dreams it hath of singing ways,
Of far-off woodland water-heads,
And shining ends of April days
Amongst the yellow runnel-beds.

Stoop closer to the ruined wall,
Wherein the wilful wilding sleeps,
As if its home were waterfall
By dripping clefts and shadowy steeps.

A little waif, whose beauty takes
A touching tone because it dwells
So far away from mountain lakes,
And lily leaves, and lightening fells.

Deep hidden in delicious floss
It nestles, sister, from the heat—
A gracious growth of tender moss
Whose nights are soft, whose days are sweet.

Swift gleams across its petals run
With winds that hum a pleasant tune,
Serene surprises of the sun,
And whispers from the lips of noon:

The evening-coloured apple-trees
Are faint with July's frosty breath.
But lo! this stranger getteth ease,
And shines amidst the strays of Death.

And at the turning of the year,
When August wanders in the cold,
The raiment of the nursling here
Is rich with green, and glad with gold.

Oh, friend of mine, to one whose eyes
Are vexed because of alien things,
For ever in the wall moss lies
The peace of hills and hidden springs.

From faithless lips and fickle lights
The tired pilgrim sets his face,
And thinketh here of sounds and sights
In many a lovely forest-place.

And when by sudden fits and starts
The sunset on the moss doth burn,
He often dreams, and, lo! the marts
And streets are changed to dells of fern.

For, let me say, the wilding placed
By hands unseen amongst these stones,
Restores a Past by Time effaced,
Lost loves and long-forgotten tones !

As sometimes songs and scenes of old
Come faintly unto you and me,
When winds are wailing in the cold,
And rains are sobbing on the sea.

AT EUROMA

THEY built his mound of the rough red ground,
By the dip of a desert dell,
Where all things sweet are killed by the heat,
And scattered o'er flat and fell ;
In a burning zone they left him alone,
Past the uttermost western plain,
And the nightfall dim heard his funeral hymn
In the voices of wind and rain.

The songs austere of the forests drear,
And the echoes of cliff and cave,
When the dark is keen where the storm hath been,
Fleet over the far-away grave.
And through the days when the torrid rays
Strike down on a coppery gloom,
Some spirit grieves in the perished leaves,
Whose theme is that desolate tomb.

No human foot, or paw of brute,
Halts now where the stranger sleeps ;
But cloud and star his fellows are,
And the rain that sobs and weeps.

The dingo yells by the far iron fells,
The plover is loud in the range,
But they never come near to the slumberer here,
Whose rest is a rest without change.

Ah! in his life, had he mother or wife,
To wait for his step on the floor?
Did beauty wax dim while watching for him
Who passed through the threshold no more?
Doth it trouble his head? He is one with the dead;
He lies by the alien streams;
And sweeter than sleep is death that is deep
And unvexed by the lordship of dreams.

CHARLES HARPUR

WHERE Harpur lies the rainy streams,
And wet hill-heads, and hollows weeping,
Are swift with wind, and white with gleams,
And hoarse with sounds of storms unsleeping.

Fit grave it is for one whose song
Was tuned by tones he caught from torrents,
And filled with mountain breaths, and strong,
Wild notes of falling forest currents.

So let him sleep! the rugged hymns
And broken lights of woods above him!
And let me sing how sorrow dims
The eyes of those that used to love him.

As April in the wilted wold
Turns faded eyes on splendours waning,
What time the latter leaves are old,
And ruin strikes the strays remaining;

So we that knew this singer dead,
Whose hands attuned the harp Australian,
May set the face and bow the head,
And mourn his fate and fortunes alien:

The burthen of a perished faith
Went sighing through his speech of sweetness,
With human hints of time and death,
And subtle notes of incompleteness.

But when the fiery power of youth
Had passed away and left him nameless,
Serene as light, and strong as truth,
He lived his life, untired and tameless:

And far and free this man of men,
With wintry hair and wasted feature,
Had fellowship with gorge and glen,
And learned the loves and runes of Nature.

Strange words of wind, and rhymes of rain,
And whispers from the inland fountains
Are mingled, in his various strain,
With leafy breaths of piny mountains.

But as the undercurrents sigh
Beneath the surface of a river,
The music of humanity
Dwells in his forest-psalms for ever.

No soul was he to sit on heights
And live with rocks apart and scornful :
Delights of men were his delights,
And common troubles made him mournful.

The flying forms of unknown powers
With lofty wonder caught and filled him ;
But there were days of gracious hours
When sights and sounds familiar thrilled him.

The pathos worn by wayside things,
The passion found in simple faces,
Struck deeper than the life of springs
Or strength of storms and sea-swept places.

But now he sleeps, the tired bard,
The deepest sleep ; and, lo ! I proffer
These tender leaves of my regard,
With hands that falter as they offer.

MOUNTAIN MOSS

IT lies amongst the sleeping stones,
Far down the hidden mountain glade ;
And past its brink the torrent moans
For ever in a dreamy shade.

A little patch of dark-green moss,
Whose softness grew of quiet ways
(With all its deep, delicious floss)
In slumb'rous suns of summer days.

You know the place? With pleasant tints
The broken sunset lights the bowers ;
And then the woods are full with hints
Of distant, dear, voluptuous flowers !

'Tis often now the pilgrim turns
A faded face towards that seat,
And cools his brow among the ferns ;
The runnel dabbling at his feet.

There fierce December seldom goes,
With scorching step, and dust, and drouth ;
But, soft and low, October blows
Sweet odours from her dewy mouth:

And Autumn, like a gipsy bold,
Doth gather near it grapes and grain,
Ere Winter comes, the woodman old,
To lop the leaves in wind and rain.

O, greenest moss of mountain glen,
The face of Rose is known to thee ;
But we shall never share with men
A knowledge dear to love and me !

For are they not between us saved,
The words my darling used to say,
What time the western waters laved
The forehead of the fainting day ?

Cool comfort had we on your breast
While yet the fervid noon turned mute
O'er barley field and barren crest,
And leagues of gardens flushed with fruit.

Oh ! sweet and low, we whispered so,
And sucked the pulp of plum and peach ;
But it was many years ago,
When each, you know, was loved of each:

THE GLEN OF ARRAWATTA

A SKY of wind! and while these fitful gusts
Are beating round the windows in the cold,
With sullen sobs of rain, behold I shape
A settler's story of the wild old times :
One told by camp-fires when the station drays
Were housed and hidden, forty years ago ;
While swarthy drivers smoked their pipes, and drew,
And crowded round the friendly gleaming flame
That lured the dingo, howling, from his caves,
And brought sharp sudden feet about the brakes.

A tale of Love and Death. And shall I say
A tale of love *in* death—for all the patient eyes
That gathered darkness, watching for a son
And brother, never dreaming of the fate—
The fearful fate—he met alone, unknown,
Within the ruthless Australasian wastes ?

For in a far-off sultry summer, rimmed
With thundercloud and red with forest fires,
All day, by ways uncouth and ledges rude,
The wild men held upon a stranger's trail,

Which ran against the rivers and athwart
The gorges of the deep blue western hills.

And when a cloudy sunset, like the flame
In windy evenings on the Plains of Thirst
Beyond the dead banks of the far Barcoo,
Lay heavy down the topmost peaks, they came,
With pent-in breath and stealthy steps, and crouched,
Like snakes, amongst the grasses, till the night
Had covered face from face, and thrown the gloom
Of many shadows on the front of things.

There, in the shelter of a nameless glen,
Fenced round by cedars and the tangled growths
Of blackwood, stained with brown and shot with
 grey,
The jaded white man built his fire, and turned
His horse adrift amongst the water-pools
That trickled underneath the yellow leaves
And made a pleasant murmur, like the brooks
Of England through the sweet autumnal noons.

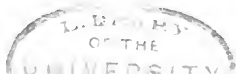
Then, after he had slaked his thirst and used
The forest fare, for which a healthful day
Of mountain life had brought a zest, he took
His axe, and shaped with boughs and wattle-forks
A wurley, fashioned like a bushman's roof:
The door brought out athwart the strenuous flame
The back thatched in against a rising wind.

And while the sturdy hatchet filled the cliffs
 With sounds unknown, the immemorial haunts
 Of echoes sent their lonely dwellers forth,
 Who lived a life of wonder : flying round
 And round the glen—what time the kangaroo
 Leapt from his lair and huddled with the bats—
 Far scattering down the wildly startled fells.
 Then came the doleful owl ; and evermore,
 The bleak morass gave out the bittern's call,
 The plover's cry, and many a fitful wail
 Of chilly omen, falling on the ear
 Like those cold flaws of wind that come and go
 An hour before the break of day.

Anon

The stranger held from toil, and, settling down,
 He drew rough solace from his well-filled pipe,
 And smoked into the night : revolving there
 The primal questions of a squatter's life ;
 For in the flats, a short day's journey past
 His present camp, his station yards were kept,
 With many a lodge and paddock jutting forth
 Across the heart of unnamed prairie-lands,
 Now loud with bleating and the cattle bells,
 And misty with the hut-fire's daily smoke.

Wide-spreading flats, and western spurs of hills
 That dipped to plains of dim perpetual blue ;
 Bold summits set against the thunder heaps ;
 And slopes behacked and crushed by battling kine !



Where now the furious tumult of their feet
 Gives back the dust, and up from glen and brake
 Evokes fierce clamour, and becomes indeed
 A token of the squatter's daring life,
 Which, growing inland—growing year by year—
 Doth set us thinking in these latter days,
 And makes one ponder of the silent lands
 Beyond the lonely tracks of Burke and Wills,
 Where, when the wandering Stuart fixed his camps
 In central wastes, afar from any home
 Or haunt of man, and in the changeless midst
 Of sullen deserts and the footless miles
 Of sultry silence, all the ways about
 Grew strangely vocal, and a marvellous noise
 Became the wonder of the waxing glooms.

Now, after darkness, like a mighty spell
 Amongst the hills and dim dispeopled dells,
 Had brought a stillness to the soul of things,
 It came to pass that, from the secret depths
 Of dripping gorges, many a runnel-voice
 Came, mellowed with the silence, and remained
 About the caves, a sweet though alien sound :
 Now rising ever, like a fervent flute
 In moony evenings, when the theme is love ;
 Now falling, as ye hear the Sunday bells
 While hastening fieldward from the gleaming town.

Then fell a softer mood, and memory paused
 With faithful love, amidst the sainted shrines

Of youth and passion in the valleys past
Of dear delights which never grow again.
And if the stranger (who had left behind
Far-anxious homesteads in a wave-swept isle,
To face a fierce sea-circle day by day,
And hear at night the dark Atlantic's moan)
Now took a hope and planned a swift return,
With wealth and health and with a youth unspent,
To those sweet ones that stayed with want at home,
Say *who* shall blame him—though the years are long,
And life is hard, and waiting makes the heart grow
old ?

Thus passed the time, until the moon serene
Stood over high dominion like a dream
Of peace : within the white transfigured woods ;
And o'er the vast dew-dripping wilderness
Of slopes illumined with her silent fires.

Then, far beyond the home of pale red leaves
And silver sluices, and the shining stems
Of runnel blooms, the dreamy wanderer saw,
The wilder for the vision of the moon,
Stark desolation and a waste of plain,
All smit by flame and broken with the storms ;
Black ghosts of trees, and sapless trunks that stood
Harsh hollow channels of the fiery noise,
Which ran from bole to bole a year before,
And grew with ruin, and was like, indeed,
The roar of mighty winds with wintering streams

That foam about the limits of the land
And mix their swiftness with the flying seas.

Now, when the man had turned his face about
To take his rest, behold the gem-like eyes
Of ambushed wild things stared from bole and
brake

With dumb amaze and faint-recurring glance,
And fear anon that drove them down the brush ;
While from his den the dingo, like a scout
In sheltered ways, crept out and cowered near
To sniff the tokens of the stranger's feast
And marvel at the shadows of the flame.

Thereafter grew the wind ; and chafing depths
In distant waters sent a troubled cry
Across the slumb'rous forest ; and the chill
Of coming rain was on the sleeper's brow,
When, flat as reptiles huddled in the scrub,
A deadly crescent crawled to where he lay—
A band of fierce fantastic savages
That, starting naked round the faded fire,
With sudden spears and swift terrific yells,
Came bounding wildly at the white man's head,
And faced him, staring like a dream of Hell !

Here let me pass ! I would not stay to tell
Of hopeless struggles under crushing blows ;
Of how the surging fiends, with thickening strokes,

Howled round the stranger till they drained his strength ;

How Love and Life stood face to face with Hate
And Death ; and then how Death was left alone
With Night and Silence in the sobbing rains.

So, after many moons, the searchers found
The body mouldering in the mouldering dell,
Amidst the fungi and the bleaching leaves,
And buried it, and raised a stony mound
Which took the mosses. Then the place became
The haunt of fearful legends and the lair
Of bats and adders.

There he lies and sleeps
From year to year ; in soft Australian nights :
And through the furnaced noons ; and in the times
Of wind and wet ! Yet never mourner comes
To drop upon that grave the Christian's tear
Or pluck the foul, dank weeds of death away.

But while the English autumn filled her lap
With faded gold, and while the reapers cooled
Their flame-red faces in the clover grass,
They looked for him at home : and when the frost
Had made a silence in the mourning lanes
And cooped the farmers by December fires,
They looked for him at home : and through the days
Which brought about the million-coloured Spring,
With moon-like splendours, in the garden plots,

They looked for him at home : while Summer danced,
A shining singer, through the tasselled corn,
They looked for him at home. From sun to sun
They waited. Season after season went,
And Memory wept upon the lonely moors,
And Hope grew voiceless, and the watchers passed,
Like shadows, one by one away.

And he

Whose fate was hidden under forest leaves
And in the darkness of untrodden dells
Became a marvel. Often by the hearths
In winter nights, and when the wind was wild
Outside the casements, children heard the tale
Of how he left their native vales behind
(Where he had been a child himself) to shape
New fortunes for his father's fallen house ;
Of how he struggled—how his name became,
By fine devotion and unselfish zeal,
A name of beauty in a selfish land ;
And then, of how the aching hours went by,
With patient listeners praying for the step
Which never crossed the floor again. So passed
The tale to children ; but the bitter end
Remained a wonder, like the unknown grave,
Alone with God and Silence in the hills.

ROSE LORRAINE

SWEET water-moons, blown into lights
Of flying gold on pool and creek,
And many sounds and many sights
Of younger days are back this week.
I cannot say I sought to face
Or greatly cared to cross again
The subtle spirit of the place
Whose life is mixed with Rose Lorraine.

What though her voice rings clearly through
A nightly dream I gladly keep,
No wish have I to start anew
Heart fountains that have ceased to leap.
Here, face to face with different days,
And later things that plead for love,
It would be worse than wrong to raise
A phantom far too vain to move.

But, Rose Lorraine—ah ! Rose Lorraine,
I'll whisper now, where no one hears—
If you should chance to meet again
The man you kissed in soft, dead years,

Just say for once "He suffered much,"
And add to this "His fate was worst
Because of me, my voice, my touch"—
There is no passion like the first!

If I that breathe your slow sweet name,
As one breathes low notes on a flute,
Have vexed your peace with word of blame,
The phrase is dead—the lips are mute.
Yet when I turn towards the wall,
In stormy nights, in times of rain,
I often wish you could recall
Your tender speeches, Rose Lorraine.

Because, you see, I thought them true,
And did not count you self-deceived,
And gave myself in all to you,
And looked on Love as Life achieved.
Then came the bitter, sudden change,
The fastened lips, the dumb despair:
The first few weeks were very strange,
And long, and sad, and hard to bear.

No woman lives with power to burst
My passion's bonds, and set me free;
For Rose is last where Rose was first,
And only Rose is fair to me.

The faintest memory of her face,
The wilful face that hurt me so,
Is followed by a fiery trace
That Rose Lorraine must never know.

I keep a faded ribbon string
You used to wear about your throat ;
And of this pale, this perished thing,
I think I know the threads by rote.
God help such love ! To touch your hand,
To loiter where your feet might fall,
You marvellous girl, my soul would stand
The worst of hell—its fires and all !

ARAKOON¹

L O! in storms, the triple-headed
Hill, whose dreaded
Bases battle with the seas,
Looms across fierce widths of fleeting
Waters beating
Evermore on roaring leas!

Arakoon, the black, the lonely!
Housed with only
Cloud and rain-wind, mist and damp;
Round whose foam-drenched feet and nether
Depths, together
Sullen sprites of thunder tramp!

There the East hums loud and surly,
Late and early,
Through the chasms and the caves,
And across the naked verges
Leap the surges!
White and wailing waifs of waves.

¹ A mountainous promontory on the coast of New South Wales.

Day by day the sea-fogs gathered—
 Tempest-fathered—
Pitch their tents on yonder peak,
Yellow drifts and fragments lying
 Where the flying
Torrents chafe the cloven creek !

And at nightfall, when the driven
 Bolts of heaven
Smite the rock and break the bluff,
Thither troop the elves whose home is
 Where the foam is,
And the echo, and the clough.

Ever girt about with noises,
 Stormy voices,
And the salt breath of the Strait,
Stands the steadfast Mountain Giant,
 Grim, reliant,
Dark as Death, and firm as Fate.

So when trouble treads, like thunder,
 Weak men under—
Treads and breaks the thews of these—
Set thyself to bear it bravely,
 Greatly, gravely,
Like the hill in yonder seas ;

Since the wrestling and endurance
Give assurance
To the faint at bay with pain,
That no soul to strong endeavour,
Yoked for ever,
Works against the tide in vain.

KING SAUL AT GILBOA

WITH noise of battle and the dust of fray,
Half hid in fog, the gloomy mountain lay ;
But Succoth's watchers, from their outer fields,
Saw fits of flame and gleams of clashing shields ;
For, where the yellow river draws its spring,
The hosts of Israel travelled, thundering !
There, beating like the storm that sweeps to sea
Across the reefs of chafing Galilee,
The car of Abner and the sword of Saul
Drave Gaza down Gilboa's southern wall ;
But swift and sure the spears of Ekron flew,
Till peak and slope were drenched with bloody dew.
" Shout, Timnath, shout ! " the blazing leaders
cried,
And hurled the stone and dashed the stave aside.
" Shout, Timnath, shout ! Let Hazor hold the
height,
Bend the long bow and break the lords of fight ! "
From every hand the swarthy strangers sprang,
Chief leaped on chief, with buckler buckler rang !
The flower of armies ! set in Syrian heat,

The ridges clamoured under labouring feet :
Nor stayed the warriors till, from Salem's road,
The crescent horns of Abner's squadrons glowed ;
Then, like a shooting splendour on the wing,
The strong-armed son of Kish came thundering ;
And as in Autumn's fall, when woods are bare,
Two adverse tempests meet in middle air,
So Saul and Achish, grim with heat and hate,
Met by the brook and shook the scales of Fate ;
For now the struggle swayed, and, firm as rocks
Against the storm-wind of the equinox,
The rallied lords of Judah stood and bore,
All day, the fiery tides of fourfold war.

But he that fasted in the secret cave
And called up Samuel from the quiet grave,
And stood with darkness and the mantled ghosts
A bitter night on shrill Samarian coasts,
Knew well the end—of how the futile sword
Of Israel would be broken by the Lord ;
How Gath would triumph, with the tawny line
That bend the knee at Dagon's brittle shrine ;
And how the race of Kish would fall to wreck,
Because of vengeance stayed at Amalek :
Yet strove the sun-like king, nor rested hand
Till yellow evening filled the level land ;
Then Judah reeled before a biting hail
Of sudden arrows shot from Achor's vale,
Where Libnah, lapped in blood from thigh to heel,
Drew the tense string, and pierced the quivering steel.

There fell the sons of Saul ; and, man by man,
The chiefs of Israel, up to Jonathan.
And while swift Achish stooped and caught the spoil,
Ten chosen archers, red with sanguine toil,
Sped after Saul, who, faint, and sick, and sore
With many wounds, had left the thick of war.
He, like a baffled bull by hunters pressed,
Turned sharp about, and faced the flooded west,
And saw the star-like spears and moony spokes
Gleam from the rocks and lighten through the oaks—
A sea of splendour ! How the chariots rolled
On wheels of blinding brightness manifold !
While stumbling over spike and spine and spur
Of sultry lands, escaped the son of Ner
With smitten men: At this the front of Saul
Grew darker than a blasted tower wall ;
And seeing how there crouched upon his right,
Aghast with fear, a black Amalekite,
He called, and said : “ I pray thee, man of pain,
Red from the scourge, and recent from the chain,
Set thou thy face to mine, and stoutly stand
With yonder bloody sword-hilt in thy hand,
And fall upon me.” But the faltering hind
Stood trembling, like a willow in the wind.
Then further Saul : “ Lest Ashdod’s vaunting hosts
Should bear me captive to their bleak-blown coasts,
I pray thee, smite me ! seeing peace has fled,
And rest lies wholly with the quiet dead.”
At this a flood of sunset broke, and smote
Keen blazing sapphires round a kingly throat,

Touched arm and shoulder, glittered in the crest,
And made swift starlights on a jewelled breast.
So, starting forward, like a loosened hound,
The stranger clutched the sword and wheeled it
round,

And struck the Lord's Anointed. Fierce and fleet
Philistia came, with shouts and clattering feet ;
By gaping gorges and by rough defile
Dark Ashdod beat across a dusty mile ;
Hot Hazor's bowmen toiled from spire to spire,
And Gath sprang upwards, like a gust of fire ;
On either side did Libnah's lords appear,
And brass-clad Timnath thundered in the rear.

"Mark, Achish, mark!"—South-west and south
there sped

A dabbled hireling from the dreadful dead.

"Mark, Achish, mark!"—The mighty front of
Saul,

Great in his life and god-like in his fall !

This was the arm that broke Philistia's pride,
Where Kishon chafes his seaward-going tide ;

This was the sword that smote till set of sun
Red Gath, from Michmash unto Ajalon,

Low in the dust. And Israel scattered far !

And dead the trumps and crushed the hoofs of war.

So fell the king, as it was said by him

Who hid his forehead in a mantle dim

At bleak Endor, what time unholy rites

Vexed the long sleep of still Samarian nights ;

For, bowed to earth before the hoary priest,
Did he of Kish withstand the smoking feast,
To fast, in darkness and in sackcloth rolled,
And house with wild things in the biting cold,
Because of sharpness lent to Gaza's sword,
And Judah widowed by the angry Lord.

So silence came. As when the outer verge
Of Carmel takes the white and whistling surge,
Hoarse, hollow noises fill the caves, and roar,
Along the margin of the echoing shore,
Thus war had thundered ; but as evening breaks
Across the silver of Assyrian lakes,
When reapers rest, and through the level red
Of sunset, peace, like holy oil, is shed,
Thus silence fell. But Israel's daughters crept
Outside their thresholds, waited, watched, and
wept.

Then they that dwell beyond the flats and fens
Of sullen Jordan, and in gelid glens
Of Jabesh-Gilead—chosen chiefs and few—
Around their loins the hasty girdle drew,
And faced the forests, huddled fold on fold,
And dells of glimmering greenness manifold.
What time Orion in the west did set
A shining foot on hills of wind and wet,
These journeyed nightly till they reached the capes
Where Ashdod revelled over heated grapes ;

And while the feast was loud, and scouts were turned
From Saul's bound body, cord by cord they burned,
And bore the king athwart the place of tombs,
And hasted eastward through the tufted glooms,
Nor broke the cake nor stayed the step, till morn
Shot over Debir's cones and crags forlorn.

From Jabesh then the weeping virgins came,
In Jabesh then they built the funeral flame ;
With costly woods they piled the lordly pyre,
Brought yellow oils and fed the perfect fire,
While round the crescent stately elders spread
The flashing armour of the mighty dead,
With crown and spears, and all the trophies won
From many wars by Israel's dreadful son ;
Thence, when the feet of evening paused and stood
On shadowy mountains and the roaring flood
(As through a rushing twilight, full of rain,
The weak moon looked athwart Gadara's plain),
The younger warriors bore the urn, and broke
The humid turf about a wintering oak,
And buried Saul ; and, fasting, went their ways,
And hid their faces seven nights and days.

FAITH IN GOD

HAVE faith in God. For whosoever lists
To calm conviction in these days of strife,
Will learn that in this steadfast stand exists
The scholarship severe of human life.

This face to face with doubt ! I know how strong
His thews must be who fights, and falls, and bears,
By sleepless nights and vigils lone and long,
And many a woeful wraith of wrestling prayers.

Yet trust in Him ! Not in an old man throned
With thunders on an everlasting cloud,
But in that awful Entity enzoned
By no wild wraths nor bitter homage loud.

When from the summit of some sudden steep
Of speculation you have strength to turn
To things too boundless for the broken sweep
Of finer comprehension, wait and learn

That God hath been "His own interpreter"
From first to last. So you will understand
The tribe who best succeed, when men most err,
To suck through fogs the fatness of the land.

One thing is surer than the autumn tints
We saw last week in yonder river bend—
That all our poor expression helps and hints,
However vaguely, to the solemn end

That God is truth ; and if our dim ideal
Falls short of fact—so short that we must weep—
Why shape specific sorrows, though the real
Be not the song which erewhile made us sleep ?

Remember, truth draws upward. This to us
Of steady happiness should be a cause
Beyond the differential calculus
Or Kant's dull dogmas and mechanic laws.

A man is manliest when he wisely knows
How vain it is to halt, and pule, and pine ;
Whilst under every mystery haply flows
The finest issue of a love divine.

TWELVE SONNETS

I

A MOUNTAIN SPRING

PEACE hath an altar there. The sounding feet
Of thunder and the 'wildering wings of rain
Against fire-rifted summits flash and beat,
And through grey upper gorges swoop and strain,
But round that hallowed mountain-spring re-
main,
Year after year, the days of tender heat,
And gracious nights, whose lips with flowers are
sweet,
And filtered lights, and lutes of soft refrain.
A still, bright pool. To men I may not tell
The secret that its heart of water knows,
The story of a loved and lost repose ;
Yet this I say to cliff and close-leaved dell :
A fitful spirit haunts yon limpid well,
Whose likeness is the faithless face of Rose.

II

LAURA

IF Laura—lady of the flower-soft face—

Should light upon these verses, she may take
The tenderest line, and through its pulses trace
What man can suffer for a woman's sake.

For in the nights that burn, the days that break,
A thin pale figure stands in Passion's place,
And peace comes not, nor yet the perished grace
Of youth, to keep old faiths and fires awake.

Ah! marvellous maid. Life sobs, and sighing saith,
"She left me, fleeting like a fluttered dove ;
But I would have a moment of her breath,
So I might taste the sweetest sense thereof,
And catch from blossoming, honeyed lips of love
Some faint, some fair, some dim, delicious death."

III

BY A RIVER

BUT red-ripe mouth and brown luxurious eyes
Of her I love, by all your sweetness shed
In far fair days, on one whose memory flies
To faithless lights, and gracious speech gainsaid,
I pray you, when yon river-path I tread,
Make with the woodlands some soft compromise,
Lest they should vex me into fruitless sighs
With visions of a woman's gleaming head!
For every green and golden-hearted thing
That gathers beauty in that shining place,
Beloved of beams and wooed by wind and wing,
Is rife with glimpses of her marvellous face;
And in the whispers of the lips of Spring
The music of her lute-like voice I trace.

IV

ATTILA

WHAT though his feet were shod with sharp, fierce
flame,

And death and ruin were his daily squires,
The Scythian, helped by Heaven's thunders, came :
The time was ripe for God's avenging fires.

Lo ! loose, lewd trulls, and lean, luxurious liars
Had brought the fair, fine face of Rome to shame,
And made her one with sins beyond a name—

That queenly daughter of imperial sires !
The blood of elders, like the blood of sheep,
Was washed across the circus. Once, while din,
And dust, and lightning, and a draggled heap
Of beast-slain men made lords with laughter leap,
Night fell, with rain. The earth, so sick of sin,
Had turned her face into the dark to weep.

v

A REWARD

BECAUSE a steadfast flame of clear intent
Gave force and beauty to full-actioned life ;
Because his way was one of firm ascent,
Whose stepping-stones were hewn of change and
strife ;
Because as husband loveth noble wife
He loved fair Truth ; because the thing he meant
To do, that thing he did, nor paused, nor bent
In face of poor and pale conclusions ; yea !
Because of this, how fares the Leader dead ?
What kind of mourners weep for him to-day ?
What golden shroud is at his funeral spread ?
Upon his brow what leaves of laurel, say ?
*About his breast is tied a sackcloth grey,
And knots of thorns deface his lordly head.*

VI

TO _____

A HANDMAID to the genius of thy song
Is sweet, fair Scholarship. 'Tis she supplies
The fiery spirit of the passion'd eyes
With subtle syllables, whose notes belong
To some chief source of perfect melodies ;
And glancing through a laurell'd, lordly throng
Of shining singers, lo ! my vision flies
To William Shakespeare ! He it is whose strong,
Full, flute-like music haunts thy stately verse.
A worthy Levite of his court thou art !
One sent among us to defeat the curse
That binds us to the Actual. Yea, thy part,
Oh, lute-voiced lover ! is to lull the heart
Of love repell'd, its darkness to disperse.

VII

THE STANZA OF CHILDE HAROLD

Who framed the stanza of Childe Harold? He
It was who, halting on a stormy shore,
Knew well the lofty voice which evermore,
In grand distress, doth haunt the sleepless sea
With solemn sounds. And as each wave did roll
Till one came up, the mightiest of the whole,
To sweep and surge across the vacant lea,
Wild words were wedded to wild melody.
This poet must have had a speechless sense
Of some dead summer's boundless affluence;
Else, whither can we trace the passioned lore
Of Beauty, steeping to the very core
His royal verse, and that rare light which lies
About it, like a sunset in the skies?

VIII

A LIVING POET

HE knows the sweet vexation in the strife
Of Love with Time, this bard who fain would stray
To fairer place beyond the storms of life,
With astral faces near him day by day.
In deep-mossed dells the mellow waters flow
Which best he loves ; for there the echoes rife,
With rich suggestions of his long ago,
Astarte, pass with thee. And, far away,
Dear southern seasons haunt the dreamy eye :
Spring, flower-zoned, and Summer, warbling low
In tasselled corn, alternate come and go,
While gypsy Autumn, splashed from heel to thigh
With vine-blood, treads the leaves ; and, halting
nigh,
Wild Winter bends across a beard of snow.

IX

DANTE AND VIRGIL

WHEN lost Francesca sobbed her broken tale
Of love, and sin, and boundless agony,
While that wan spirit by her side did wail
And bite his lips for utter misery—
The grief which could not speak, nor hear, nor
see—

So tender grew the superhuman face
Of one who listened, that a mighty trace
Of superhuman woe gave way, and pale
The sudden light up-struggled to its place ;
While all his limbs began to faint and fail
With such excess of pity. But, behind,
The Roman Virgil stood—the calm, the wise—
With not a shadow in his regal eyes,
The stately type of all his stately kind.

x

REST

SOMETIMES we feel so spent from want of rest,
We have no thought beyond. I know to-day,
When tired of bitter lips and dull delay
With faithless words, I cast mine eyes upon
The shadows of a distant mountain-crest,
And said "That hill must hide within its breast
Some secret glen secluded from the sun."
Oh, mother Nature! would that I could run
Outside to thee; and, like a wearied guest,
Half blind with lamps, and sick of feasting, lay
An aching head on thee. Then down the streams
The moon might swim, and I should feel her
grace,
While soft winds blew the sorrows from my face,
So quiet in the fellowship of dreams.

XI

AFTER PARTING

I CANNOT tell what change hath come to you
To vex your splendid hair. I only know
One grief: the passion left betwixt us two,
Like some forsaken watchfire, burneth low.
'Tis sad to turn and find it dying so,
Without a hope of resurrection! Yet,
O radiant face that found me tired and lone!
I shall not for the dear dead past forget
The sweetest looks of all the summers gone.
Ah! time hath made familiar wild regret;
For now the leaves are white in last year's bowers,
And now doth sob along the ruined leas
The homeless storm from saddened southern seas,
While March sits weeping over withered flowers.

XII

ALFRED TENNYSON

THE silvery dimness of a happy dream
I've known of late. Methought where Byron
moans,
Like some wild gulf in melancholy zones,
I passed tear-blinded. Once a lurid gleam
Of stormy sunset loitered on the sea,
While travelling, troubled like a straitened stream,
The voice of Shelley died away from me.
Still sore at heart I reached a lake-lit lea,
And then the green-mossed glades with many a grove,
Where lies the calm which Wordsworth used to love ;
And lastly, Locksley Hall, from whence did rise
A haunting song that blew, and breathed, and blew
With rare delights. 'Twas *there* I woke and knew
The sumptuous comfort left in drowsy eyes.

AT DUSK

AT dusk, like flowers that shun the day,
Shy thoughts from dim recesses break,
And plead for words I dare not say
For your sweet sake.

My early love! my first, my last,
Mistakes have been that both must rue;
But all the passion of the past
Survives for you.

The tender message Hope might send
Sinks fainting at the lips of speech,
For, are you lover—are you friend,
That I would reach?

How much to-night I'd give to win
A banished peace—an old repose;
But here I sit, and sigh, and sin
When no one knows.

The stern, the steadfast reticence,
Which made the dearest phrases halt,
And checked a first and finest sense,
Was not my fault:

I held my words because there grew
About my life persistent pride ;
And you were loved, who never knew
What love could hide !

This purpose filled my soul like flame :
To win you wealth and take the place
Where care is not, or any shame
To vex your face.

I said " Till then my heart must keep
Its secrets safe and unconfest " ;
And days and nights unknown to sleep
The vow attest:

Yet, oh ! my sweet, it seems so long
Since you were near ; and fates retard
The sequel of a struggle strong,
And life is hard—

Too hard, when one is left alone
To wrestle passion, never free
To turn and say to you, " My own,
Come home to me ! "

SEPTEMBER IN AUSTRALIA

GREY Winter hath gone, like a wearisome guest,
And, behold, for repayment,
September comes in with the wind of the West
And the Spring in her raiment !
The ways of the frost have been filled of the flowers,
While the forest discovers
Wild wings, with the halo of hyaline hours,
And a music of lovers.

September, the maid with the swift, silver feet !
She glides, and she graces
The valleys of coolness, the slopes of the heat,
With her blossomy traces ;
Sweet month, with a mouth that is made of a rose,
She lightens and lingers
In spots where the harp of the evening glows,
Attuned by her fingers.

The stream from its home in the hollow hill slips
 In a darling old fashion ;
And the day goeth down with a song on its lips
 Whose key-note is passion ;
Far out in the fierce, bitter front of the sea
 I stand, and remember
Dead things that were brothers and sisters of thee,
 Resplendent September.

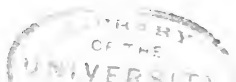
The West, when it blows at the fall of the noon
 And beats on the beaches,
So filled with a tender and tremulous tune
 That touches and teaches ;
The stories of Youth, of the burden of Time,
 And the death of Devotion,
Come back with the wind, and are themes of the
 rhyme
 In the waves of the ocean.

We, having a secret to others unknown,
 In the cool mountain-mosses,
May whisper together, September, alone
 Of our loves and our losses.
One word for her beauty, and one for the place
 She gave to the hours ;
And then we may kiss her, and suffer her face
 To sleep with the flowers:

High places that knew of the gold and the white
 On the forehead of Morning
 Now darken and quake, and the steps of the Night
 Are heavy with warning !
 Her voice in the distance is lofty and loud
 Through its echoing gorges ;
 She hath hidden her eyes in a mantle of cloud,
 And her feet in the surges !

On the tops of the hills, on the turreted cones—
 Chief temples of thunder—
 The gale, like a ghost, in the middle watch moans,
 Gliding over and under,
 The sea, flying white through the rack and the rain,
 Leapeth wild at the forelands ;
 And the plover, whose cry is like passion with pain,
 Complains in the moorlands:

Oh, season of changes—of shadow and shine—
 September the splendid !
 My song hath no music to mingle with thine,
 And its burden is ended ;
 But thou, being born of the winds and the sun,
 By mountain, by river,
 Mayst lighten and listen, and loiter and run,
 With thy voices for ever.



EUROCLYDON

ON the storm-cloven Cape
The bitter waves roll,
With the bergs of the Pole,
And the darks and the damp of the Northern Sea :
For the storm-cloven Cape
Is an alien Shape
With a fearful face ! and it moans, and it stands
Outside all lands
Everlastingly !

When the fruits of the year
Have been gathered in Spain,
And the Indian rain
Is rich on the evergreen lands of the Sun,
There comes to this Cape
To this alien Shape,
As the waters beat in and the echoes troop forth,
The Wind of the North,
Euroclydon !

And the wilted thyme,
And the patches past
Of the nettles cast
In the drift of the rift, and the broken rime,
Are tumbled and blown
To every zone
With the famished glede, and the plovers thinned
By this fourfold Wind—
This Wind sublime!

On the wrinkled hills,
By starts and fits,
The wild Moon sits;
And the rindles fill, and flash, and fall
In the way of her light,
Through the straitened night,
When the sea-heralds clamour, and elves of the war,
In the torrents afar,
Hold festival!

From ridge to ridge
The polar fires,
On the naked spires,
With a foreign splendour, flit and flow;
And clough and cave
And architrave
Have a blood-coloured glamour on roof and on wall,
Like a nether hall
In the hells below!

The dead, dry lips
Of the ledges, split
By the thunder fit
And the stress of the sprites of the forkèd flame,
Anon break out,
With a shriek and a shout,
Like a hard, bitter laughter, cracked and thin,
From a ghost with a sin
Too dark for a name !

And, all thro' the year,
The fierce seas run
From sun to sun,
Across the face of a vacant world !
And the Wind flies forth
From the wild, white North,
That shivers and harries the heart of things,
And shapes with its wings
A chaos uphurled !

Like one who sees
A rebel light
In the thick of the night,
As he stumbles and staggers on summits afar—
Who looks to it still,
Up hill and hill,
With a steadfast hope (though the ways be deep,
And rough, and steep),
Like a steadfast star—

So I, that stand
 On the outermost peaks
 Of peril, with cheeks
Blue with the salts of a frosty sea,
 Have learnt to wait,
 With an eye elate
And a heart intent, for the fuller blaze
 Of the Beauty that rays
 Like a glimpse for me—

Of the Beauty that grows
 Whenever I hear
 The Winds of Fear
From the tops and the bases of barrenness call ;
 And the duplicate lore
 Which I learn evermore,
Is of Harmony filling and rounding the Storm,
 And the marvellous Form
 That governs all !

ON A CATTLE TRACK

WHERE the strength of dry thunder splits
 hill-rocks asunder,
And the shouts of the desert-wind break,
By the gullies of deepness and ridges of steepness,
 Lo, the cattle track twists like a snake!
Like a sea of dead embers, burnt white by Decem-
 bers,
A plain to the left of it lies;
And six fleeting horses dash down the creek courses
 With the terror of thirst in their eyes.

The false strength of fever, that deadly deceiver,
 Gives foot to each famishing beast;
And over lands rotten, by rain-winds forgotten,
 The mirage gleams out in the east:
Ah! the waters are hidden from riders and ridden
 In a stream where the cattle track dips;
And Death on their faces is scoring fierce traces,
 And the drouth is a fire on their lips.

It is far to the station, and gaunt Desolation
Is a spectre that glooms in the way ;
Like a *red* smoke the air is, like a hell-light its glare
is,
And as flame are the feet of the day.
The wastes are like metal that forges unsettle
When the heat of the furnace is white ;
And the cool breeze that bloweth when an English
sun goeth,
Is unknown to the wild desert night.

A cry of distress there ! a horseman the less there !
The mock-waters shine like a moon !
It is " Speed, and speed faster from this hole of
disaster !
And hurrah for yon God-sent lagoon !"
Doth a devil deceive them ? Ah, now let us leave
them—
We are burdened in life with the sad :
Our portion is trouble, our joy is a bubble,
And the gladdest is never too glad.

From the pale tracts of peril, past mountain heads
sterile,
To a sweet river shadowed with reeds,
Where Summer steps lightly, and Winter beams
brightly,
The hoof-rutted cattle track leads.

There soft is the moonlight, and tender the noon-
light ;

There fiery things falter and fall ;
And there may be seen, now, the gold and the green,
now,
And the wings of a peace over all.

Hush, bittern and plover ! Go, wind, to thy cover
Away by the snow-smitten Pole !

The rotten leaf falleth, the forest rain calleth ;

And what is the end of the whole ?

Some men are successful after seasons distressful

[Now, masters, the drift of my tale] ;

But the brink of salvation is a lair of damnation

For others who struggle yet fail.

TO DAMASCUS

WHERE the sinister sun of the Syrians beat
On the brittle, bright stubble,
And the camels fell back from the swords of the
heat,
Came Saul, with a fire in the soles of his feet,
And a forehead of trouble.

And terrified faces to left and to right,
Before and behind him,
Fled away with the speed of a maddening fright
To the cloughs of the bat and the chasms of night,
Each hoping the zealot would fail in his flight
To find him and bind him.

For, behold you! the strong man of Tarsus came
down
With breathings of slaughter,
From the priests of the city, the chiefs of the town
(The lords with the sword, and the sires with the
gown),
To harry the Christians, and trample, and drown,
And waste them like water.

He was *ever* a fighter, this son of the Jews—
 A fighter in earnest ;
And the Lord took delight in the strength of his
 thews,
For He knew he was one of the few He could choose
To fight out His battles and carry His news
Of a marvellous truth through the dark, and the
 dews,
 And the desert lands furnaced !

He knew he was one of the few He could take
 For His mission supernal,
Whose feet would not falter, whose limbs would
 not ache,
Through the waterless lands of the thorn and the
 snake,
And the ways of the wild—bearing up for the sake
 Of a Beauty eternal.

And therefore the road to Damascus was burned
 With a swift sudden brightness ;
While Saul, with his face in the bitter dust, learned
Of the sin which he did ere he tumbled, and turned
 Aghast at God's whiteness !

Of the sin which he did ere he covered his head
 From the strange revelation.
But, thereafter, you know of the life that he led—

How he preached to the peoples, and suffered,
and sped
With the wonderful words which his Master had said,
From nation to nation.

Now would we be like him, who suffer and see,
If the Chooser should choose us !
For I tell you, brave brothers, whoever you be,
It is right, till all learn to look further, and see,
That our Master should use us !

It is right, till all learn to discover and class,
That our Master should task us :
For now we may judge of the Truth through a glass ;
And the road over which they must evermore pass,
Who would think for the many, and fight for the
mass,
Is the road to Damascus.

THE LAST OF HIS TRIBE

HE crouches, and buries his face on his knees,
And hides in the dark of his hair ;
For he cannot look up to the storm-smitten trees,
Or think of the loneliness there—
Of the loss and the loneliness there.

The wallaroos grope through the tufts of the grass,
And turn to their covers for fear ;
But he sits in the ashes and lets them pass
Where the boomerangs sleep with the spear—
With the nullah, the sling, and the spear.

Uloola, behold him ! The thunder that breaks
On the tops of the rocks with the rain,
And the wind which drives up with the salt of the
lakes,
Have made him a hunter again—
A hunter and fisher again.

For his eyes have been full with a smouldering
thought ;

But he dreams of the hunts of yore,
And of foes that he sought, and of fights that he
fought

With those who will battle no more—
Who will go to the battle no more.

It is well that the water which tumbles and fills,
Goes moaning and moaning along ;
For an echo rolls out from the sides of the hills,
And he starts at a wonderful song—
At the sounds of a wonderful song.

And he sees through the rents of the scattering
fogs,
The corroboree warlike and grim,
And the lubra who sat by the fire on the logs,
To watch, like a mourner, for him—
Like a mother and mourner for him.

Will he go in his sleep from these desolate lands,
Like a chief, to the rest of his race,
With the honey-voiced woman who beckons and
stands,
And gleams like a dream in his face—
Like a marvellous dream in his face ?

THE VOYAGE OF TELEGONUS

ALL fares it with the man whose lips are set
To bitter themes and words that spite the
 gods ;

For, seeing how the son of Saturn sways
With eyes and ears for all, this one shall halt
As on hard, hurtful hills ; his days shall know
The plaintive front of sorrow ; level looks,
With cries ill-favoured shall be dealt to him ;
And *this* shall be that he may think of peace
As one might think of alienated lips
Of sweetness touched for once in kind, warm
dreams.

Yea, fathers of the high and holy face,
This soul thus sinning shall have cause to sob
“ Ah, ah,” for sleep, and space enough to learn
The wan, wild Hyrie’s aggregated song
That starts the dwellers in distorted heights,
With all the meaning of perpetual sighs
Heard in the mountained deserts of the world,
And where the green-haired waters glide between
The thin, lank weeds and mallows of the marsh:

But thou to whom these things are like to shapes
That come of darkness—thou whose life slips past
Regarding rather these with mute fast mouth—
Hear none the less how fleet Telegonus,
The brass-clad hunter, first took oar and smote
Swift eastward-going seas, with face direct
For narrowing channels and the twofold coasts
Past Colchis and the fierce Symplegades,
And utmost islands, washed by streams unknown.

For in a time when Phasis whitened wide
And drove with violent waters blown of wind
Against the bare salt limits of the land,
It came to pass that, joined with Cytherea,
The black-browed Ares, chafing for the wrong
Ulysses did him on the plains of Troy,
Set heart against the king; and when the storms
Sang high in thunder and the Thracian rain,
The god bethought him of a pale-mouthed priest
Of Thebæ, kin to ancient Chariclo,
And of an omen which the prophet gave
That touched on death and grief to Ithaca;
Then, knowing how a heavy-handed fate
Had laid itself on Circe's brass-clad son,
He pricked the hunter with a lust that turned
All thoughts to travel and the seas remote;
But chiefly now he stirred Telegonus
To longings for his father's exiled face,
And dreams of rest and honey-hearted love
And quiet death with much of funeral flame

Far in the mountains of a favoured land
 Beyond the wars and wailings of the waves.

So, past the ridges where the coast abrupt
 Dips greyly westward, Circe's strong-armed son
 Swept down the foam of sharp-divided straits
 And faced the stress of opening seas. Sheer out
 The vessel drave; but three long moons the gale
 Moaned round; and swift strong streams of fire
 revealed

The labouring rowers and the lightening surf,
 Pale watchers deafened of sonorous storm,
 And dripping decks and rents of ruined sails.
 Yea, when the hollow ocean-driven ship
 Wheeled sideways, like a chariot cloven through
 In hard hot battle, and the night came up
 Against strange headlands lying east and north,
 Behold a black wild wind with death to all
 Ran shoreward, charged with flame and thunder
 smoke,

Which blew the waters into wastes of white,
 And broke the bark, as lightning breaks the pine;
 Whereat the sea in fearful circles showed
 Unpitied faces turned from Zeus and light—
 Wan swimmers wasted with their agony,
 And hopeless eyes and moaning mouths of men.
 But one held by the fragments of the wreck,
 And Ares knew him for Telegonus,
 Whom heavy-handed Fate had chained to deeds
 Of dreadful note with sin beyond a name.

So, seeing this, the black-browed lord of war,
 Arrayed about by Jove's authentic light,
 Shot down amongst the shattered clouds and called
 With mighty strain, betwixt the gaps of storm
 "Oceanus! Oceanus!" Whereat
 The surf sprang white, as when a keel divides
 The gleaming centre of a gathered wave;
 And, ringed with flakes of splendid fire of foam,
 The son of Terra rose half-way and blew
 The triple trumpet of the water-gods,
 At which great winds fell back and all the sea
 Grew dumb, as on the land a war-feast breaks
 When deep sleep falls upon the souls of men.
 Then Ares of the night-like brow made known
 The brass-clad hunter of the facile feet,
 Hard clinging to the slippery logs of pine,
 And told the omen to the hoary god
 That touched on death and grief to Ithaca;
 Wherefore Oceanus, with help of hand,
 Bore by the chin the warrior of the North,
 A moaning mass, across the shallowing surge,
 And cast him on the rocks of alien shores
 Against a wintry morning shot with storm:

Hear also, thou, how mighty gods sustain
 The men set out to work the ends of Fate,
 Which fill the world with tales of many tears
 And vex the sad face of humanity:
 Six days and nights the brass-clad chief abode
 Pent up in caverns by the straitening seas

And fed on ferns and limpets ; but the dawn,
 Before the strong sun of the seventh, brought
 A fume of fire and smells of savoury meat
 And much rejoicing, as from neighbouring feasts
 At which the hunter, seized with sudden lust,
 Sprang up the crags, and, like a dream of fear,
 Leapt, shouting, at a huddled host of hinds
 Amongst the fragments of their steaming food ;
 And as the hoarse wood-wind in autumn sweeps
 To every zone the hissing latter leaves,
 So fleet Telegonus, by dint of spear
 And strain of thunderous voice, did scatter these
 East, south, and north. 'Twas then the chief had
 rest,

Hard by the outer coast of Ithaca,
 Unknown to him who ate the spoil and slept.
 Nor stayed he hand thereafter ; but when noon
 Burned dead on misty hills of stunted fir,
 This man shook slumber from his limbs and sped
 Against hoar beaches and the kindled cliffs
 Of falling waters. These he waded through,
 Beholding, past the forests of the west,
 A break of light and homes of many men,
 And shining corn, and flowers, and fruits of flowers.
 Yea, seeing these, the facile-footed chief
 Grasped by the knot the huge Ææan lance
 And fell upon the farmers ; wherefore they
 Left hoe and plough, and crouched in heights
 remote,

Companied with the grey-winged fogs ; but he

Made waste their fields and throve upon their toil—
As throve the boar, the fierce four-footed curse
Which Artemis did raise in Calydon
To make stern mouths wax white with foreign fear,
All in the wild beginning of the world.
So one went down and told Laertes' son
Of what the brass-clad stranger from the straits
Had worked in Ithaca ; whereat the King
Rose, like a god, and called his mighty heir,
Telemachus, the wisest of the wise ;
And these two, having counsel, strode without,
And armed them with the arms of warlike days—
The helm, the javelin, and the sun-like shield,
And glancing greaves and quivering stars of steel !
Yea, stern Ulysses, rusted not with rest,
But dread as Ares, gleaming on his car
Gave out the reins ; and straightway all the lands
Were struck by noise of steed and shouts of men,
And furious dust, and splendid wheels of flame.
Meanwhile the hunter (starting from a sleep
In which the pieces of a broken dream
Had shown him Circe with most tearful face),
Caught at his spear, and stood like one at bay
When Summer brings about Arcadian horns
And headlong horses mixt with maddened hounds ;
Then huge Ulysses, like a fire of fight,
Sprang sideways on the flying car, and drave
Full at the brass-clad warrior of the North
His massive spear ; but fleet Telegonus
Stooped from the death, but heard the speedy lance

Sing like a thin wind through the steaming air ;
 Yet he, dismayed not by the dreadful foe—
 Unknown to him—dealt out his strength, and
 aimed

A strenuous stroke at great Laertes' son,
 Which missed the shield, but bit through flesh and
 bone,

And drank the blood, and dragged the soul from
 thence !

So fell the King ! and one cried " Ithaca !
 Ah, Ithaca ! " and turned his face and wept.

Then came another—wise Telemachus—
 Who knelt beside the man of many days
 And pored upon the face ; but lo, the life
 Was like bright water spilt in sands of thirst,
 A wasted splendour swiftly drawn away.

Yet held he by the dead : he heeded not
 The moaning warrior who had learnt his sin—
 Who waited now, like one in lairs of pain,
 Apart with darkness, hungry for his fate ;
 For had not wise Telemachus the lore
 Which makes the pale-mouthed seer content to
 sleep

Amidst the desolations of the world ?

So therefore he, who knew Telegonus,
 The child of Circe by Laertes' son,
 Was set to be a scourge of Zeus, smote not,
 But rather sat with moody eyes, and mused,
 And watched the dead. For who may brave the
 gods ?

Yet, O my fathers, when the people came,
And brought the holy oils and perfect fire,
And built the pile, and sang the tales of Troy—
Of desperate travels in the olden time,
By shadowy mountains and the roaring sea,
Near windy sands and past the Thracian snows—
The man who crossed them all to see his sire,
And had a loyal heart to give the king,
Instead of blows—this man did little more
Than moan outside the fume of funeral rites,
All in a rushing twilight full of rain,
And clap his palms for sharper pains than swords:
Yea, when the night broke out against the flame,
And lonely noises loitered in the fens,
This man nor stirred, nor slept, but lay at wait,
With fastened mouth. For who may brave the
 gods ?

GOD HELP OUR MEN AT SEA

THE wild night comes like an owl to its lair,
The black clouds follow fast,
And the sun-gleams die, and the lightning's glare
And the ships go heaving past, past, past—
The ships go heaving past !
Bar the doors, and higher, higher
Pile the faggots on the fire :
Now abroad, by many a light,
Empty seats there are to-night—
Empty seats that none may fill,
For the storm grows louder still :
How it surges and swells through the gorges and
dells,
Under the ledges and over the lea,
Where a watery sound goeth moaning around—
God help our men at sea !

Oh ! never a tempest blew on the shore
But that some heart did moan
For a darling voice it would hear no more
And a face that had left it lone, lone, lone—
A face that had left it lone !

I am watching by a pane
 Darkened with the gusty rain,
 Watching, through a mist of tears,
 Sad with thoughts of other years,
 For a brother I did miss
 In a stormy time like this.

Ah! the torrent howls past, like a fiend on the blast,
 Under the ledges and over the lea;
 And the pent waters gleam, and the wild surges
 scream—
 God help our men at sea!

Ah, Lord! they may grope through the dark to find
 Thy hand within the gale;
 And cries may rise on the wings of the wind
 From mariners weary and pale, pale, pale—
 From mariners weary and pale!
 'Tis a fearful thing to know,
 While the storm-winds loudly blow,
 That a man can sometimes come
 Too near to his father's home;
 So that he shall kneel and say,
 "Lord, I would be far away!"

Ho! the hurricanes roar round a dangerous shore,
 Under the ledges and over the lea;
 And there twinkles a light on the billows so white—
 God help our men at sea!

SONG OF THE CATTLE-HUNTERS

WHILE the morning light beams on the fern-
matted streams,
And the water-pools flash in its glow,
Down the ridges we fly, with a loud ringing cry—
Down the ridges and gullies we go!
And the cattle we hunt, they are racing in front,
With a roar like the thunder of waves,
As the beat and the beat of our swift horses' feet
Start the echoes away from their caves—
As the beat and the beat
Of our swift horses' feet
Start the echoes away from their caves!

Like a wintry shore that the waters ride o'er,
All the lowlands are filling with sound:
For swiftly we gain where the herds on the plain,
Like a tempest, are tearing the ground!
And we'll follow them hard to the rails of the yard,
Over gulches and mountain-tops grey,
Where the beat and the beat of our swift horses' feet
Will die with the echoes away—
Where the beat and the beat
Of our swift horses' feet
Will die with the echoes away!

SUTHERLAND'S¹ GRAVE

[*The first white man buried in Australia.*]

ALL night long the sea out yonder—all night
long the wailful sea,
Vext of winds and many thunders, seeketh rest un-
ceasingly !
Seeketh rest in dens of tempest, where, like one dis-
traught with pain,
Shouts the wild-eyed sprite, Confusion—seeketh
rest, and moans in vain :
Ah ! but you should hear it calling, calling when
the haggard sky
Takes the darks and damps of Winter with the
mournful marsh-fowl's cry ;
Even while the strong, swift torrents from the
rainy ridges come
Leaping down and breaking backwards—million-
coloured shapes of foam !
Then, and then, the sea out yonder chiefly looketh
for the boon
Portioned to the pleasant valleys and the grave
sweet summer moon :

¹ A seaman of Captain Cook's first voyage, who died shortly after the *Endeavour* anchored in Botany Bay, 1770.

Boon of Peace, the still, the saintly spirit of the
dew-dells deep—

Yellow dells and hollows haunted by the soft, dim
dreams of sleep.

All night long the flying water breaks upon the
stubborn rocks—

Ooze-filled forelands burnt and blackened, smit and
scarred with lightning shocks ;

But above the tender sea-thrift, but beyond the
flowering fern,

Runs a little pathway westward—pathway quaint
with turn on turn—

Westward trending, thus it leads to shelving shores
and slopes of mist :

Sleeping shores, and glassy bays of green and gold
and amethyst !

There tread gently—*gently*, pilgrim ; *there* with
thoughtful eyes look round ;

Cross thy breast and bless the silence : lo, the place
is holy ground !

Holy ground for ever, stranger ! All the quiet
silver lights

Dropping from the starry heavens through the soft
Australian nights—

Dropping on those lone grave-grasses—come serene,
unbroken, clear,

Like the love of God the Father, falling, falling,
year by year !

Yea, and like a Voice supernal, *there* the daily wind
doth blow

In the leaves above the sailor buried ninety years ago.

SYRINX

A HEAP of low, dark, rocky coast,
Unknown to foot or feather !
A sea-voice moaning like a ghost ;
And fits of fiery weather !

The flying Syrinx turned and sped
By dim, mysterious hollows,
Where night is black, and day is red,
And frost the fire-wind follows.

Strong, heavy footfalls in the wake
Came up with flights of water :
The gods were mournful for the sake
Of Ladon's lovely daughter.

For when she came to spike and spine,
Where reef and river gather,
Her feet were sore with shell and chine ;
She could not travel farther:

Across a naked strait of land
Blown sleet and surge were humming ;
But trammelled with the shifting sand,
She heard the monster coming !

A thing of hoofs, and horns, and lust :
A gaunt, goat-footed stranger !
She bowed her body in the dust
And called on Zeus to change her ;

And called on Hermes, fair and fleet,
And her of hounds and quiver,
To hide her in the thickets sweet
That sighed above the river.

So he that sits on flaming wheels,
And rules the sea and thunder,
Caught up the satyr by the heels
And tore his skirts in sunder.

While Arcas, of the glittering plumes,
Took Ladon's daughter lightly,
And set her in the gracious glooms
That mix with moon-mist nightly ;

And touched her lips with wild-flower wine,
And changed her body slowly,
Till, in soft reeds of song and shine,
Her life was hidden wholly.

ON THE PAROO

AS when the strong stream of a wintering sea
Rolls round our coast, with bodeful breaks
of storm,

And swift salt rain, and bitter wind that saith
Wild things and woeful of the White South Land
Alone with God and silence in the cold—
As when this cometh, men from dripping doors
Look forth, and shudder for the mariners
Abroad, so we for absent brothers looked
In days of drought, and when the flying floods
Swept boundless ; roaring down the bald, black plains
Beyond the farthest spur of western hills.

For where the Barwan cuts a rotten land,
Or lies unshaken, like a great blind creek,
Between hot mouldering banks, it came to this,
All in a time of short and thirsty sighs,
That thirty rainless months had left the pools
And grass as dry as ashes : then it was
Our kinsmen started for the lone Paroo,

From point to point, with patient strivings, sheer
Across the horrors of the windless downs,
Blue gleaming like a sea of molten steel.

But never drought had broke them : never flood
Had quenched them : they with mighty youth and
health,

And thews and sinews knotted like the trees—
They, like the children of the native woods,
Could stem the strenuous waters, or outlive
The crimson days and dull, dead nights of thirst
Like camels : yet of what avail was strength
Alone to them—though it was like the rocks
On stormy mountains—in the bloody time
When fierce sleep caught them in the camps at rest,
And violent darkness gripped the life in them
And whelmed them, as an eagle unawares
Is whelmed and slaughtered in a sudden snare.

All murdered by the blacks ! smit while they lay
In silver dreams, and with the far, faint fall
Of many waters breaking on their sleep :
Yea, in the tracts unknown of any man
Save savages—the dim-discovered ways
Of footless silence or unhappy winds—
The wild men came upon them, like a fire
Of desert thunder ; and the fine firm lips
That touched a mother's lips a year before,
And hands that knew a dearer hand than life,
Were hewn like sacrifice before the stars,

And left with hooting owls, and blowing clouds,
And falling leaves, and solitary wings !
Aye, you may see their graves—you who have toiled,
And tripped, and thirsted, like these men of ours ;
For, verily, I say that *not* so deep
Their bones are that the scattered drift and dust
Of gusty days will never leave them bare.
O dear, dead, bleaching bones ! I know of those
Who have the wild strong will to go and sit
Outside all things with you, and keep the ways
Aloof from bats, and snakes, and trampling feet
That smite your peace and theirs—who have the
heart,
Without the lusty limbs, to face the fire,
And moonless midnights, and to be, indeed,
For very sorrow, like a moaning wind
In wintry forests with perpetual rain.

Because of this—because of sisters left
With desperate purpose and dishevelled hair,
And broken breath, and sweetness quenched in tears—
Because of swifter silver for the head,
And furrows for the face—because of these
That should have come with age, that come with pain,
O Master ! Father ! Sitting where our eyes
Are tired of looking, say for once are we—
Are *we* to set our lips with weary smiles
Before the bitterness of Life and Death,
And call it honey, while we bear away
A taste like wormwood ?

Turn thyself, and sing—
Sing, Son of Sorrow! Is there any gain
For breaking of the loins, for melting eyes,
And knees as weak as water?—any peace,
Or hope, for casual breath, and labouring lips,
For clapping of the palms, and sharper sighs
Than frost; or any light to come for those
Who stand and mumble in the alien streets
With heads as grey as Winter?—any balm
For pleading women, and the love that knows
Of nothing left to love?

They sleep a sleep
Unknown of dreams, these darling friends of ours.
And *we* who taste the core of many tales
Of tribulation—*we* whose lives are salt
With tears indeed—we therefore hide our eyes
And weep in secret, lest our grief should risk
The rest that hath no hurt from daily racks
Of fiery clouds and immemorial rains.

EUTERPE

CHILD of Light, the bright, the bird-like ! wilt
thou float and float to me,

Facing winds, and sleets, and waters, flying glimpses
of the sea ?

Down amongst the hills of tempest, where the elves
of tumult roam—

Blown wet shadows of the summits, dim sonorous
sprites of foam ?

Here, and here, my days are wasted, shorn of leaf
and stript of fruit :

Vexed because of speech half spoken, maiden with
the marvellous lute !

Vexed because of songs half-shapen, smit with fire
and mixed with pain :

Part of thee, and part of Sorrow, like a sunset pale
with rain.

Child of Light, the bright, the bird-like ! wilt thou
float and float to me

Facing winds and sleets, and waters, flying glimpses
of the sea ?

All night long, in fluent pauses, falling far, but full,
but fine,

Faultless friend of flowers and fountains, do I hear
that voice of thine.

All night long, amidst the burden of the lordly
storm, that sings
High above the tumbled forelands, fleet and fierce
with thunderings !
Then, and then, my love, Euterpe, lips of life re-
plete with dreams
Murmur for thy sweet, sharp fragments dying down
Lethean streams :
Murmur for thy mouth's marred music, splendid
hints that burn and break,
Heavy with excess of beauty : murmur for thy
music's sake,
All night long in fluent pauses, falling far, but full,
but fine,
Faultless friend of flowers and fountains, do I hear
that voice of thine.

In the yellow flame of evening sound of thee doth
come and go
Through the noises of the river, and the drifting
of the snow :
In the yellow flame of evening—at the setting of
the day—
Sound that lightens, falls, and lightens, flickers,
faints, and fades away.
I am famished of thy silence—broken for the ten-
der note
Caught with its surpassing passion—caught and
strangled in thy throat !

We have nought to help thy trouble—nought for
that which lieth mute
On the harpstring and the lutestring and the spirit
of the lute:
In the yellow flame of evening sound of thee doth
come and go
Through the noises of the river and the drifting of
the snow.

Daughter of the dead red summers ! men that laugh
and men that weep
Call thee Music—shall I follow, choose their name,
and turn, and sleep ?
What thou art, behold, I know not ; but thy honey
slakes and slays
Half the want which whitens manhood in the stress
of alien days !
Even as a wondrous woman struck with love and
great desire
Hast thou been to me, Euterpe ! half of tears and
half of fire.
But thy joy is swift and fitful ; and a subtle sense
of pain
Sighs through thy melodious breathing, takes the
rapture from thy strain,
Daughter of the dead red summers ! men that laugh
and men that weep
Call thee Music—shall I follow, choose their name,
and turn, and sleep ?

SAFI

STRONG pinions bore Safi, the dreamer,
Through the dazzle and whirl of a race,
And the earth, raying up in confusion,
Like a sea thundered under his face!

And the earth, raying up in confusion,
Passed flying and flying afar,
Till it dropped like a moon into silence,
And waned from a moon to a star.

Was it light, was it shadow he followed,
That he swept through those desperate tracts
With his hair beating back on his shoulders
Like the tops of the wind-hackled flax?

“I come,” murmured Safi, the dreamer,
“I come, but thou fliest before:
But thy way hath the breath of the honey,
And the scent of the myrrh evermore!”

His eyes were the eyes of a watcher
Held on by luxurious faith,
And his lips were the lips of a longer
Amazed with the beauty of Death:

“ For ever and ever,” he murmured,
“ My love, for the sweetness with thee,
Do I follow thy footsteps,” said Safi,
“ Like the wind on a measureless sea.”

And, fronting the furthestmost paces,
He kept through the distances dim,
Till the days, and the years, and the cycles,
Were lost and forgotten by him.

When he came to the silver star-portals,
The Queen of that wonderful place
Looked forth from her towers resplendent,
And started, and dreamed in his face.

And one said, “ This is Safi the Only,
Who lived in a planet below,
And housed him apart from his fellows,
A million of ages ago.

“ He erred, if he suffers, to clutch at
High lights from the wood and the street ;
Not caring to see how his brothers
Were content with the things at their feet.”

But she whispered, “ Ah, turn to the stranger !
He looks like a lord of the land ;
For his eyes are the eyes of an angel,
And the thought on his forehead is grand !

“ Is there never a peace for the sinner
Whose sin is in this, that he mars
The light of his worship of Beauty,
Forgetting the flower for the stars.”

“ Behold him, my Sister immortal,
And doubt that he knoweth his shame,
Who raves in the shadow for sweetness,
And gloats on the ghost of a flame !

“ His sin is his sin, if he suffers,
Who wilfully straitened the truth ;
And his doom is his doom, if he follows
A lie without sorrow or ruth.”

And another from uttermost verges
Ran out with a terrible voice—
“ Let him go—it is well that he goeth,
Though he break with the lot of his choice.’

“ I come,” murmured Safi, the dreamer,
“ I come, but thou fliest before :
But thy way hath the breath of the honey,
And the scent of the myrrh evermore.”

“ My Queen,” said the first of the Voices,
“ He hunteth a perilous wraith,
Arrayed with voluptuous fancies
And ringed with tyrannical faith.

“ Wound up in the heart of his error
He must sweep through the silences dire,
Like one in the dark of a desert
Allured by fallacious fire.”

And she faltered, and asked, like a doubter,
“ When he hangs on those Spaces sublime
With the Terror that knoweth no limit,
And holdeth no record of Time—

“ Forgotten of God and the demons—
Will he keep to his fancy amain ?
Can he live for that horrible chaos
Of flame and perpetual rain ? ”

But an answer as soft as a prayer
Fell down from a high hidden land,
And the words were the words of a language
Which none but the gods understand:

IN MEMORIAM

DANIEL HENRY DENIEHY

TAKE the harp, but very softly for our brother
touch the strings :
Wind and wood shall help to wail him, waves and
mournful mountain-springs.
Take the harp, but very softly, for the friend who
grew so old
Through the hours we would not hear of—nights we
would not fain behold !
Other voices—sweeter voices—shall lament him
year by year,
Though the morning finds us lonely, though we sit
and marvel here :
Marvel much while Summer cometh, trammelled
with November wheat,
Gold about her forehead gleaming, green and gold
about her feet ;
Yea, and while the land is dark with plover, gull,
and gloomy glede,
Where the cold, swift songs of Winter fill the inter-
lucent reed.

Yet, my heart—and oh, my fathers, never look for
 Sorrow's lay,
 Making life a mighty darkness in the patient noon
 of day ;
 Since he resteth whom we loved so, out beyond
 these fleeting seas,
 Blowing clouds and restless regions paved with old
 perplexities,
 In a land where thunder breaks not, in a place un-
 known of snow,
 Where the rain is mute for ever, where the wild
 winds never go :
 Home of far-forgotten phantoms—genii of our peace-
 ful prime,
 Shining by perpetual waters past the ways of Change
 and Time :
 Haven of the harried spirit, where it folds its wearied
 wings,
 Turns its face and sleeps a sleep with deep forget-
 fulness of things.

His should be a grave by mountains, in a cool and
 thick-mossed lea,
 With the lone creek falling past it—falling ever to
 the sea.
His should be a grave by waters, by a bright and
 broad lagoon,
 Making steadfast splendours hallowed of the quiet,
 shining moon.

There the elves of many forests—wandering winds
and flying lights—
Born of green, of happy mornings, dear to yellow
summer nights,
Full of dole for him that loved them, then might
halt, and then might go,
Finding fathers of the people to their children speak-
ing low—
Speaking low of one who, failing, suffered all the
poet's pain,
Dying with the dead leaves round him—hopes which
never grow again:

MEROPE

FAR in the ways of the hyaline wastes—in the
face of the splendid
Six of the sisters—the star-dowered sisters ineffably
bright,
Merope sitteth, the shadow-like wife of a monarch
unfriended
Of Ades—of Orcus, the fierce, the implacable god of
the night.
Merope—fugitive Merope! lost to thyself and thy
lover,
Cast, like a dream, out of thought, with the moons
which have passed into sleep,
What shall avail thee? Alcyone's tears, or the
sight to discover
Of Sisyphus pallid for thee by the blue, bitter lights
of the deep—
Pallid, but patient for sorrow? Oh, thou of the
fire and the water,
Half with the flame of the sunset, and kin to the
streams of the sea,
Hast thou the songs of old times for desire of thy
dark-featured daughter,

Sweet with the lips of thy yearning, O Æthra : with
tokens of thee !
Songs that would lull her, like kisses forgotten of
silence where speech was
Less than the silence that bound it as passion is
bound by a ban ;
Seeing we know of thee, Mother, *we* turning and
hearing how each was
Wrapt in the other ere Merope faltered and fell for
a man ?
Mortal she clave to, forgetting her birthright, for-
getting the lordlike
Sons of the many-winged Father, and chiefs of the
plume and the star,
Therefore, because that her sin was the grief of the
grand and the godlike,
Sitteth thy child than a morning-moon bleaker, the
faded, and far.
Ringed with the flower-like Six of the Seven, arrayed
and anointed
Ever with beautiful pity, she watches, she weeps,
and she wanes,
Blind as a flame on the hills of the Winter in hours
appointed
For the life of the foam and the thunder—the strength
of the imminent rains:
Who hath a portion, Alcyone, like her ? Asterope,
fairer
Than sunset on snow, and beloved of all brightness,
say what is there left

Sadder and paler than Pleione's daughter, disconsolate bearer
Of trouble that smites like a sword of the gods to the break of the heft ?
Demeter, and Dryope, known to the forests, the falls, and the fountains,
Yearly, because of their walking, and wailing, and wringing of hands,
Are they as one with this woman ? or Hyrie wild in the mountains,
Breaking her heart in the frosts and the fires of the uttermost lands ?
These have their bitterness. This, for Persephone, that for Æchalian
Homes, and the lights of a kindness blown out with the stress of her shame :
One for her child, and one for her sin ; but thou above all art an alien,
Girt with the halos that vex thee, and wrapt in a grief beyond name.
Yet sayeth Sisyphus—Sisyphus, stricken and chained of the minioned
Kings of great darkness, and trodden in dust by the feet of the Fates—
“ Sweet are the ways of thy watching, and pallid and perished, and pinioned,
Moon amongst maidens, I leap for thy love like a god at the gates—
Leap for the dreams of a rose of the heavens, and beat at the portals

Paved with the pain of unsatisfied pleadings for
thee and for thine ;
But Zeus is immutable Master, and these are the
walls the immortals
Build for our sighing, and who may set lips at the
lords and repine ?
Therefore," he saith, " I am sick for thee, Merope,
faint for the tender
Touch of thy mouth, and the eyes like the lights of
an altar to me ;
But, lo, thou art far ; and thy face is a still and a
sorrowful splendour !
And the storm is abroad with the rain on the
perilous straits of the sea."

AFTER THE HUNT

UNDERNEATH the windy mountain walls
Forth we rode, an eager band,
By the surges, and the verges, and the gorges,
Till the night was on the land—
On the hazy, mazy land !
Far away the bounding prey
Leapt across the ruts and logs,
But we galloped, galloped, galloped on !
Till we heard the yapping of the dogs:

Oh, it was a madly merry day
We shall not so soon forget,
And the edges, and the ledges, and the ridges
Haunt us with their echoes yet—
Echoes, echoes, echoes yet !
While the moon is on the hill
Gleaming through the streaming fogs,
Don't you gallop, gallop, gallop still ?
Don't you hear the yapping of the dogs ?

THE WARRIGAL (WILD DOG OF AUSTRALIA)

THE warrigal's lair is pent in bare
Black rocks at the gorge's mouth ;
It is set in ways where summer strays
With the sprites of flame and drouth ;
But, when the heights are touched with lights
Of hoar-frost, sleet, and shine,
His bed is made of the dead grass-blade
And the leaves of the windy pine.

Through forest boles the storm-wind rolls,
Vext of the sea-driv'n rain ;
And, up in the clift, through many a rift,
The voices of torrents complain.
The sad marsh-fowl and the lonely owl
Are heard in the fog-wreaths grey,
When the warrigal wakes, and listens, and takes
To the woods that shelter the prey :

In the gully-deeps the blind creek sleeps,
And the silver, showery moon
Glides over the hills, and floats, and fills,
And dreams in the dark lagoon ;

While halting hard by the station yard,
Aghast at the hut-flame nigh,
The warrigal yells, and flats and fells
Are loud with his dismal cry.

On the topmost peak of the mountains bleak
The south wind sobs, and strays
Through moaning pine and turpentine,
And the rippling runnel ways ;
And strong streams flow, and dank mists go,
Where the warrigal starts to hear
The watch-dog's bark break sharp in the dark,
And flees like a phantom of fear !

A SPANISH LOVE SONG

FROM Andalusian gardens
I bring the rose and rue,
And leaves of subtle odour,
To weave a gift for you.
You'll know the reason wherefore
The sad is with the sweet !
My flowers may lie, as I would,
A carpet for your feet.

The heart—the heart is constant ;
It holds its secret, Dear !
But often in the night time
I keep awake for fear.
I have no hope to whisper,
I have no prayer to send,
God save you from such passion !
God help you from such end !

You first, you last, you false love !
In dreams your lips I kiss,
And thus I greet your Shadow,
“ Take this, and this, and this ! ”

When dews are on the casement,
And winds are in the pine,
I have you close beside me—
In sleep your mouth is mine.

I never see you elsewhere ;
You never think of me ;
But fired with fever for you
Content I am to be.
You will not turn, my Darling,
Nor answer when I call ;
But yours are soul and body
And love of mine and all !

You splendid Spaniard ! Listen—
My passion leaps to flame
For neck, and cheek, and dimple,
And cunning shades of shame !
I tell you, I would gladly
Give Hell myself to keep,
To cling to, half a moment,
The lips I taste in sleep.

SONGS FROM THE MOUNTAINS

TO A MOUNTAIN

TO thee, O father of the stately peaks,
Above me in the loftier light—to thee,
Imperial brother of those awful hills
Whose feet are set in splendid spheres of flame,
Whose heads are where the gods are, and whose
sides
Of strength are belted round with all the zones
Of all the world, I dedicate these songs.
And if, within the compass of this book,
There lives and glows *one* verse in which there beats
The pulse of wind and torrent—if *one* line
Is here that like a running water sounds,
And seems an echo from the lands of leaf,
Be sure that line is thine. Here, in this home,
Away from men and books and all the schools,
I take thee for my Teacher. In thy voice
Of deathless majesty, I, kneeling, hear
God's grand authentic Gospel! Year by year,
The great sublime cantata of thy storm
Strikes through my spirit—fills it with a life
Of startling beauty! Thou my Bible art
With holy leaves of rock, and flower, and tree,
And moss, and shining runnel. From each page
That helps to make thy awful volume, I

Have learned a noble lesson. In the psalm
Of thy grave winds, and in the liturgy
Of singing waters, lo! my soul has heard
The higher worship; and from thee, indeed,
The broad foundations of a finer hope
Were gathered in; and thou hast lifted up
The blind horizon for a larger faith!
Moreover, walking in exalted woods
Of naked glory, in the green and gold
Of forest sunshine, I have paused like one
With all the life transfigured: and a flood
Of light ineffable has made me feel
As felt the grand old prophets caught away
By flames of inspiration; but the words
Sufficient for the story of my Dream
Are far too splendid for poor human lips!
But thou, to whom I turn with reverent eyes—
O stately Father, whose majestic face
Shines far above the zone of wind and cloud,
Where high dominion of the morning is—
Thou hast the Song complete of which my songs
Are pallid adumbrations! Certain sounds
Of strong authentic sorrow in this book
May have the sob of upland torrents—these,
And only these, may touch the great World's heart;
For, lo! they are the issues of that grief
Which makes a man more human, and his life
More like that frank exalted life of thine:
But in these pages there are other tones
In which thy large, superior voice is not—

Through which no beauty that resembles thine
Has ever shone. *These* are the broken words
Of blind occasions, when the World has come
Between me and my Dream. No song is here
Of mighty compass; for my singing robes
I've worn in stolen moments. All my days
Have been the days of a laborious life,
And ever on my struggling soul has burned
The fierce heat of this hurried sphere. But thou,
To whose fair majesty I dedicate
My book of rhymes—thou hast the perfect rest
Which makes the heaven of the highest gods!
To thee the noises of this violent time
Are far, faint whispers; and, from age to age,
Within the world and yet apart from it,
Thou standest! Round thy lordly capes the sea
Rolls on with a superb indifference
For ever; in thy deep, green, gracious glens
The silver fountains sing for ever. Far
Above dim ghosts of waters in the caves,
The royal robe of morning on thy head
Abides for ever! Evermore the wind
Is thy august companion; and thy peers
Are cloud, and thunder, and the face sublime
Of blue mid-heaven! On thy awful brow
Is Deity; and in that voice of thine
There is the great imperial utterance
Of God for ever; and thy feet are set
Where evermore, through all the days and years,
There rolls the grand hymn of the deathless wave:

MARY RIVERS

PATH beside the silver waters, flashing in October's
sun—

Walk, by green and golden margins where the sister
streamlets run,

Twenty shining springs have vanished, full of flower,
and leaf, and bird, -

Since the step of Mary Rivers in your lawny dell was
heard.

Twenty white-haired Junes have left us—grey with
frost and bleak with gale—

Since the hand of her we loved so plucked the blossoms
in your dale.

Twenty summers, twenty autumns, from the grand
old hills have passed,

With their robes of royal colour, since we saw the
darling last.

Morning comes—the blessed morning ! and the slow
song of the sea,

Like a psalm from radiant altars, floats across a rose.
red lea ;

Then the fair, strong noonday blossoms, and the
reaper seeks the cool
Valley of the moss and myrtle, and the glimmering
waterpool.
Noonday flames and evening follows ; and the lordly
mountains rest
Heads arrayed with tenfold splendour on the rich
heart of the West.
Evening walks with moon and music where the higher
life has been ;
But the face of Mary Rivers *there* will nevermore be
seen.

Ah ! when autumn dells are dewy, and the wave is
very still,
And that grey ghost called the Twilight passes from
the distant hill—
Even in the hallowed nightfall, when the fathers
sit and dream,
And the splendid rose of heaven sees a sister in the
stream—
Often do I watch the waters gleaming in a starry
bay,
Thinking of a bygone beauty, and a season far
away ;
Musing on the grace that left us in a time of singing
rain,
On the lady who will never walk amongst these
heaths again.

Four there were, but two were taken ; and this
darling we deplore,

She was sweetest of the circle—she was dearest of
the four !

In the daytime and the dewtime comes the phantom
of her face :

None will ever sit where she did—none will ever fill
her place.

With the passing of our Mary, like a sunset out of
sight,

Passed away our pure first passion—all its life and
all its light !

All that made the world a dreamland—all the glory
and the glow

Of the fine fresh morning feeling vanished twenty
years ago.

Girl, whose strange, unearthly beauty haunts us
ever in our sleep,

Many griefs have worn our hearts out—we are now
too tired to weep !

Time has tried us, years have changed us ; but the
sweetness shed by you

Falls upon our spirits daily, like divine, immortal
dew.

Shining are our thoughts about you—of the blossoms
past recall,

You are still the rose of lustre—still the fairest of
them all ;

In the sleep that brings the garland gathered from
the bygone hours,
You are still our Mary Rivers—still the queen of
all the flowers:

Let me ask, where none can hear me—When you
passed into the shine,

And you heard a great love calling, did you know
that it was mine ?

In your life of light and music, tell me did you ever
see,

Shining in a holy silence, what was as a flame in
me ?

Ah, my darling ! no one saw it. Purer than un-
trodden dew

Was that first unhappy passion buried in the grave
with you.

Bird and leaf will keep the secret—wind and wood
will never tell

Men the thing that I have whispered. Mary Rivers,
fare you well !

BEYOND KERGUELEN

DOWN in the South, by the waste without sail
on it—

Far from the zone of the blossom and tree—
Lieth, with winter and whirlwind and wail on it,
Ghost of a land by the ghost of a sea.
Weird is the mist from the summit to base of it ;
Sun of its heaven is wizened and grey ;
Phantom of light is the light on the face of it—
Never is night on it, never is day !
Here is the shore without flower or bird on it ;
Here is no litany sweet of the springs—
Only the haughty, harsh thunder is heard on it,
Only the storm, with a roar in its wings !

Shadow of moon is the moon in the sky of it—
Wan as the face of a wizard, and far !
Never there shines from the firmament high of it
Grace of the planet or glory of star.
All the year round, in the place of white days on it—
All the year round where there never is night—

Lies a great sinister, bitter, blind haze on it :
Growth that is neither of darkness nor light !
Wild is the cry of the sea in the caves by it—
Sea that is smitten by spears of the snow ;
Desolate songs are the songs of the waves by it—
Down in the South, where the ships never go.

Storm from the Pole is the singer that sings to it
Hymns of the land at the planet's grey verge.
Thunder discloses dark, wonderful things to it—
Thunder, and rain, and the dolorous surge.
Hills with no hope of a wing or a leaf on them,
Scarred with the chronicles written by flame,
Stare through the gloom of inscrutable grief on them,
Down on the horns of the gulfs without name.
Cliffs with the records of fierce flying fires on them—
Loom over perilous pits of eclipse ;
Alps, with anathema stamped in the spires on them—
Out by the wave with a curse on its lips.

Never is sign of soft, beautiful green on it—
Never the colour, the glory of rose !
Neither the fountain nor river is seen on it,
Naked its crags are, and barren its snows !
Blue as the face of the drowned is the shore of it—
Shore, with the capes of indefinite cave.
Strange is the voice of its wind, and the roar of it
Startles the mountain and hushes the wave.
Out to the south and away to the north of it,
Spectral and sad are the spaces untold !

All the year round a great cry goeth forth of it—
Sob of this leper of lands in the cold.

No man hath stood, all its bleak, bitter years on it—
Fall of a foot on its wastes is unknown :

Only the sound of the hurricane's spears on it

Breaks with the shout from the uttermost zone.

Blind are its bays with the shadow of bale on them ;

Storms of the nadir their rocks have uphurled ;

Earthquake hath registered deeply its tale on them—

Tale of distress from the dawn of the world !

There are the gaps, with the surges that seethe in
them—

Gaps in whose jaws is a menace that glares !

There the wan reefs, with the merciless teeth in
them,

Gleam on a chaos that startles and scares !

Back in the dawn of this beautiful sphere, on it—

Land of the dolorous, desolate face—

Beamed the blue day ; and the bountiful year on it

Fostered the leaf and the blossom of grace.

Grand were the lights of its midsummer noon on it—

Mornings of majesty shone on its seas :

Glitter of star and the glory of moon on it

Fell, in the march of the musical breeze.

Valleys and hills, with the whisper of wing in them,

Dells of the daffodil—spaces imperaled,

Flowered and flashed with the splendour of Spring
in them—

Back in the morn of this wonderful world.

Soft were the words that the thunder then said to it—

Said to this lustre of emerald plain ;

Sun brought the yellow, the green, and the red to it—

Sweet were the songs of its silvery rain.

Voices of water and wind in the bays of it

Lingered, and lulled like the psalm of a dream.

Fair were the nights and effulgent the days of it—

Moon was in shadow and shade in the beam.

Summer's chief throne was the marvellous coast of it,

Home of the Spring was its luminous lea :

Garden of glitter ! but only the ghost of it

Moans in the South by the ghost of a sea.



HY-BRASIL

“ DAUGHTER,” said the ancient father, pausing
by the evening sea,

“ Turn thy face towards the sunset—turn thy face
and kneel with me !

Prayer and praise and holy fasting, lips of love and
life of light,

These and these have made thee perfect—shining
saint with seraph’s sight !

Look towards that flaming crescent—look beyond
that glowing space—

Tell me, sister of the angels, what is beaming in thy
face ? ”

And the daughter, who had fasted, who had spent
her days in prayer,

Till the glory of the Saviour touched her head and
rested there,

Turned her eyes towards the sea-line—saw beyond
the fiery crest,

Floating over waves of jasper, far Hy-Brasil in the
West.

All the calmness and the colour—all the splendour
and repose,

Flowing where the sunset flowered, like a silver-
hearted rose !

There indeed was singing Eden, where the great gold
river runs

Past the porch and gates of crystal, ringed by strong
and shining ones !

There indeed was God's own garden, sailing down the
sapphire sea—

Lawny dells and slopes of summer, dazzling stream
and radiant tree !

Out against the hushed horizon—out beneath the
reverent day,

Flamed the Wonder on the waters—flamed, and
flashed, and passed away.

And the maiden who had seen it felt a hand within
her own,

And an angel that we know not led her to the lands
unknown.

Never since hath eye beheld it—never since hath
mortal, dazed

By its strange, unearthly splendour, on the floating
Eden gazed !

Only once since Eve went weeping through a throng
of glittering wings,

Hath the holy seen Hy-Brasil where the great gold
river sings !

Only once by quiet waters, under still, resplendent
skies,

Did the sister of the seraphs kneel in sight of Paradise !
She, the pure, the perfect woman, sanctified by patient
prayer,

Had the eyes of saints of Heaven, all their glory in
her hair :

Therefore God the Father whispered to a radiant
spirit near—

“ Show Our daughter fair Hy-Brasil—show her this,
and lead her here.”

But beyond the halls of sunset, but within the won-
drous West,

On the rose-red seas of evening, sails the Garden of
the Blest.

Still the gates of glassy beauty, still the walls of
glowing light,

Shine on waves that no man knows of, out of sound
and out of sight.

Yet the slopes and lawns of lustre, yet the dells of
sparkling streams,

Dip to tranquil shores of jasper, where the watching
angel beams.

But, behold, our eyes are human, and our way is
paved with pain,

We can never find Hy-Brasil, never see its hills
again !

Never look on bays of crystal, never bend the reverent
knee

In the sight of Eden floating—floating on the sapphire
sea !

MOONI

AH, to be by Mooni now !
Where the great dark hills of wonder,
Scarred with storm and cleft asunder
By the strong sword of the thunder,
Make a night on morning's brow !
Just to stand where Nature's face is
Flushed with power in forest places—
Where of God authentic trace is—
Ah, to be by Mooni now !

Just to be by Mooni's springs !
There to stand, the shining sharer
Of that larger life, and rarer
Beauty caught from beauty fairer
Than the human face of things !
Soul of mine from sin abhorrent
Fain would hide by flashing current
Like a sister of the torrent,
Far away by Mooni's springs.

He that is by Mooni now,
Sees the water-sapphires gleaming
Where the River Spirit, dreaming
Sleeps by fall and fountain streaming
 Under lute of leaf and bough !
Hears, where stamp of storm with stress is,
Psalms from unseen wildernesses
Deep amongst far hill-recesses—
 He that is by Mooni now:

Yea, for him by Mooni's marge,
Sings the yellow-haired September
With the face the gods remember
When the ridge is burnt to ember,
 And the dumb sea chains the barge !
Where the mount like molten brass is,
Down beneath fern-feathered passes,
Noonday dew in cool green grasses
 Gleams on him by Mooni's marge:

Who that dwells by Mooni yet,
Feels, in flowerful forest arches,
Smiting wings and breath that parches
Where strong Summer's path of march is
 And the suns in thunder set ?
Housed beneath the gracious kirtle
Of the shadowy water myrtle,
Winds may hiss with heat, and hurtle—
 He is safe by Mooni yet !

Days there were when he who sings
(Dumb so long through passion's losses)
Stood where Mooni's water crosses
Shining tracts of green-haired mosses,
 Like a soul with radiant wings ;
Then the psalm the wind rehearses—
Then the song the stream disperses
Lent a beauty to his verses—
 Who to-night of Mooni sings:

Ah, the theme—the sad, grey theme !
Certain days are not above me,
Certain hearts have ceased to love me,
Certain fancies fail to move me
 Like the affluent morning dream:
Head whereon the white is stealing,
Heart whose hurts are past all healing,
Where is now the first pure feeling ?
 Ah, the theme—the sad, grey theme !

Sin and shame have left their trace !
He who mocks the mighty, gracious
Love of Christ, with eyes audacious,
Hunting after fires fallacious,
 Wears the issue in his face:
Soul that flouted gift and Giver,
Like the broken Persian river,
Thou hast lost thy strength for ever !
 Sin and shame have left their trace.

In the years that used to be,
 When the large, supreme occasion
 Brought the life of inspiration
 Like a god's transfiguration,
 Was the shining change in me:
 Then, where Mooni's glory glances,
 Clear diviner countenances
 Beamed on me like blessed chances,
 In the years that used to be:

Ah, the beauty of old ways!
 Then the man who so resembled
 Lords of light unstained, unhumbled,
 Touched the skirts of Christ, nor trembled
 At the grand benignant gaze!
 Now he shrinks before the splendid
 Face of Deity offended,
 All the loveliness is ended!
 All the beauty of old ways!

Still to be by Mooni cool—
 Where the water-blossoms glisten,
 And, by gleaming vale and vista,
 Sits the English April's sister
 Soft, and sweet, and wonderful:
 Just to rest beyond the burning
 Outer world—its sneers and spurning—
 Ah! my heart—my heart is yearning
 Still to be by Mooni cool:

Now, by Mooni's fair hill heads,
Lo, the gold green lights are glowing,
Where, because no wind is blowing,
Fancy hears the flowers growing
 In the herby watersheds !
Faint it is—the sound of thunder
From the torrents far thereunder,
Where the meeting mountains ponder—
 Now, by Mooni's fair hill heads:

Just to be where Mooni is,
Even where the fierce fall races
Down august unfathomed places,
Where of sun or moon no trace is,
 And the streams of shadow hiss !
Have I not an ample reason
So to long for—sick of treason—
Something of the grand old season,
 Just to be where Mooni is ?

THE VOICE IN THE WILD OAK

TWELVE years ago, when I could face
High heaven's dome with different eyes—
In days full-flowered with hours of grace,
And nights not sad with sighs—
I wrote a song in which I strove
To shadow forth thy strain of woe,
Dark widowed sister of the grove—
Twelve wasted years ago.

But youth was then too young to find
Those high authentic syllables,
Whose voice is like the wintering wind
By sunless mountain fells ;
Nor had I sinned and suffered then
To that superlative degree
That I would rather seek, than men,
Wild fellowship with thee.

But he who hears this autumn day
Thy more than deep autumnal rhyme,
Is one whose hair was shot with grey
By Grief instead of Time.

He has no need, like many a bard,
 To sing imaginary pain,
 Because he bears, and finds it hard,
 The punishment of Cain.

No more he sees the affluence
 Which makes the heart of Nature glad ;
 For he has lost the fine first sense
 Of Beauty that he had.
 The old delight God's happy breeze
 Was wont to give, to Grief has grown ;
 And therefore, Niobe of trees,
 His song is like thine own.

But I, who am that perished soul,
 Have wasted so these powers of mine,
 That I can never write that whole,
 Pure, perfect speech of thine.
 Some lord of words august, supreme,
 The grave, grand melody demands ;
 The dark translation of thy theme
 I leave to other hands.

Yet here, where plovers nightly call
 Across dim melancholy leas—
 Where come by whistling fen and fall
 The moan of far-off seas—
 A grey old Fancy often sits
 Beneath thy shade with tired wings,
 And fills thy strong, strange rhyme by fits
 With awful utterings.

Then times there are when all the words
 Are like the sentences of one
 Shut in by fate from wind and birds
 And light of stars and sun !
 No dazzling dryad, but a dark
 Dream-haunted spirit doomed to be
 Imprisoned, cramped in bands of bark,
 For all eternity:

Yea, like the speech of one aghast
 At Immortality in chains,
 What time the lordly storm rides past
 With flames and arrowy rains :
 Some wan Tithonus of the wood,
 White with immeasurable years—
 An awful ghost in solitude
 With moaning moors and meres !

And when high thunder smites the hill
 And hunts the wild dog to his den,
 Thy cries, like maledictions, shrill
 And shriek from glen to glen,
 As if a frightful memory whipped
 Thy soul for some infernal crime
 That left it blasted, blind, and stript—
 A dread to Death and Time !

But when the fair-haired August dies,
 And flowers wax strong and beautiful,
 Thy songs are stately harmonies
 By wood-lights green and cool—

Most like the voice of one who shows
Through sufferings fierce, in fine relief,
A noble patience and repose—
A dignity in grief.

But, ah! conceptions fade away,
And still the life that lives in thee—
The soul of thy majestic lay—
Remains a mystery!
And he must speak the speech divine—
The language of the high-throned lords—
Who 'd give that grand old theme of thine
Its sense in faultless words.

By hollow lands and sea-tracts harsh,
With ruin of the fourfold gale,
Where sighs the sedge and sobs the marsh,
Still wail thy lonely wail ;
And, year by year, one step will break
The sleep of far hill-folded streams,
And seek, if only for thy sake
Thy home of many dreams.

ARALUEN

[*The Poet's Daughter.*]

TAKE this rose, and very gently place it on the
tender, deep
Mosses where our little darling, Araluen, lies asleep:
Put the blossom close to baby—kneel with me, my
love, and pray ;
We must leave the bird we've buried—say good-bye
to her to-day ;
In the shadow of our trouble we must go to other
lands,
And the flowers we have fostered will be left to other
hands.
Other eyes will watch them growing—other feet will
softly tread
Where two hearts are nearly breaking, where so
many tears are shed.
Bitter is the world we live in : life and love are mixed
with pain ;
We will never see these daisies—never water them
again.

Ah! the saddest thought in leaving baby in this
bush alone

Is that we have not been able on her grave to place
a stone :

We have been too poor to do it ; but, my darling,
never mind—

God is in the gracious heavens, and His sun and rain
are kind :

They will dress the spot with beauty, they will
make the grasses grow ;

Many winds will lull our birdie, many songs will
come and go.

Here the blue-eyed Spring will linger, here the
shining month will stay,

Like a friend, by Araluen, when we two are far away ;

But, beyond the wild, wide waters, we will tread
another shore—

We will never watch this blossom, never see it any
more.

Girl, whose hand at God's high altar in the dear,
dead year I pressed,

Lean your stricken head upon me—this is still your
lover's breast !

She who sleeps was first and sweetest—none we have
to take her place !

Empty is the little cradle—absent is the little face.
Other children may be given ; but this rose beyond
recall,

But this garland of your girlhood, will be dearest of
them all.

None will ever, Araluen, nestle where you used to be,
In my heart of hearts, you darling, when the world
was new to me ;

We were young when you were with us, life and love
were happy things

To your father and your mother ere the angels gave
you wings.

You that sit and sob beside me—you, upon whose
golden head

Many rains of many sorrows have from day to day
been shed ;

Who, because your love was noble, faced with me
the lot austere

Ever pressing with its hardship on the man of letters
here—

Let me feel that you are near me, lay your hand
within mine own ;

You are all I have to live for, now that we are left
alone.

Three there were, but one has vanished. Sins of
mine have made you weep ;

But forgive your baby's father now that baby is
asleep.

Let us go, for night is falling, leave the darling with
her flowers ;

Other hands will come and tend them—other friends
in other hours.

NAMES UPON A STONE

A CROSS bleak widths of broken sea
A fierce north-easter breaks,
And makes a thunder on the lea—
A whiteness of the lakes.
Here, while beyond the rainy stream
The wild winds sobbing blow,
I see the river of my dream
Four wasted years ago.

Narrara of the waterfalls,
The darling of the hills,
Whose home is under mountain walls
By many-luted rills !
Her bright green nooks and channels cool
I never more may see ;
But, ah ! the Past was beautiful—
The sights that used to be:

There was a rock-pool in a glen
Beyond Narrara's sands ;
The mountains shut it in from men
In flowerful fairy lands ;

But once we found its dwelling-place—
The lovely and the lone—
And, in a dream, I stooped to trace
Our names upon a stone.

Above us, where the star-like moss
Shone on the wet, green wall
That spanned the straitened stream across,
We saw the waterfall—
A silver singer far away,
By folded hills and hoar ;
Its voice is in the woods to-day—
A voice I hear no more.

I wonder if the leaves that screen
The rock-pool of the past
Are yet as soft and cool and green
As when we saw them last !
I wonder if that tender thing,
The moss, has overgrown
The letters by the limpid spring—
Our names upon the stone !

Across the face of scenes we know
There may have come a change—
The places seen four years ago
Perhaps would now look strange.
To you, indeed, they cannot be
What, haply, once they were :
A friend beloved by you and me
No more will greet us there.

Because I know the filial grief
That shrinks beneath the touch—
The noble love whose words are brief—
I will not say too much ;
But often when the night-winds strike
Across the sighing rills,
I think of him whose life was like
The rock-pool's in the hills:

A beauty like the light of song
Is in my dreams, that show
The grand old man who lived so long
As spotless as the snow.
A fitting garland for the dead
I cannot compass yet ;
But many things he did and said
I never will forget.

In dells where once we used to rove
The slow, sad water grieves ;
And ever comes from glimmering grove
The liturgy of leaves.
But time and toil have marked my face,
My heart has older grown
Since, in the woods, I stooped to trace
Our names upon the stone.

COORANBEAN

YEARS fifty, and seven to boot, have smitten
the children of men

Since sound of a voice or a foot came out of the head
of that glen.

The brand of black devil is there—an evil wind
moaneth around—

There is doom, there is death in the air : a curse
groweth up from the ground !

No noise of the axe or the saw in that hollow unholy
is heard,

No fall of the hoof or the paw, no whirr of the wing
of the bird ;

But a grey mother down by the sea, as wan as the
foam on the strait,

Has counted the beads on her knee these forty-nine
winters and eight.

Whenever an elder is asked—a white-headed man
of the woods—

Of the terrible mystery masked where the dark
everlastingly broods,

Be sure he will turn to the bay, with his back to the
glen in the range,
And glide like a phantom away, with a countenance
pallid with change:
From the line of dead timber that lies supine at the
foot of the glade,
The fierce-featured eaglehawk flies—afraid as a dove
is afraid ;
But back in that wilderness dread are a fall and the
forks of a ford—
*Ah ! pray and uncover your head, and lean like a
child on the Lord:*

A sinister fog at the wane—at the change of the moon
cometh forth
Like an ominous ghost in the train of a bitter, black
storm of the North !
At the head of the gully unknown, it hangs like a
spirit of bale,
And the noise of a shriek and a groan strikes up in
the gusts of the gale:
In the throat of a feculent pit is the beard of a bloody-
red sedge ;
And a foam like the foam of a fit sweats out of the
lips of the ledge.
But down in the water of death, in the livid, dead
pool at the base—
*Bow low, with inaudible breath, beseech with the hands
to the face !*

A furlong of fetid, black fen, with gelid green patches
of pond,
Lies dumb by the horns of the glen—at the gates
of the horror beyond ;
And those who have looked on it tell of the terrible
growths that are there—
The flowerage fostered by hell, the blossoms that
startle and scare.
If ever a wandering bird should light on Gehennas
like this
Be sure that a cry will be heard, and the sound of
the flat adder's hiss.
But, hard by the jaws of the bend, is a ghastly
Thing matted with moss—
*Ah, Lord! be a father, a friend, for the sake of the
Christ of the Cross.*

Black Tom, with the sinews of five—that never a
hangman could hang—
In the days of the shackle and gyve, broke loose
from the guards of the gang:
Thereafter, for seasons a score, this devil prowled
under the ban ;
A mate of red talon and paw, a wolf in the shape of
a man:
But, ringed by ineffable fire, in a thunder and wind
of the North,
The sword of Omnipotent ire—the bolt of high
Heaven went forth !

But, wan as the sorrowful foam, a grey mother waits
by the sea
For the boys that have never come home these
fifty-four winters and three.

From the folds of the forested hills there are ravelled
and roundabout tracks,
Because of the terror that fills the strong-handed
men of the axe !
Of the workers away in the range there is none that
will wait for the night,
When the storm-stricken moon is in change and the
sinister fog is in sight:
And later and deep in the dark, when the bitter
wind whistles about,
There is never a howl or a bark from the dog in the
kennel without,
But the white fathers fasten the door, and often and
often they start,
At a sound like a foot on the floor and a touch like
a hand on the heart.

BOB

SINGER of songs of the hills—
Dreamer, by waters unstirred,
Back in a valley of rills,
Home of the leaf and the bird—
Read in this fall of the year
Just the compassionate phrase,
Faded with traces of tear,
Written in far-away days :

*“Gone is the light of my lap
(Lord, at Thy bidding I bow),
Here is my little one’s cap,
He has no need of it now,
Give it to somebody’s boy—
Somebody’s darling”*—she wrote.
Touching was Bob in his joy—
Bob without boots or a coat:

Only a cap ; but it gave
Capless and comfortless one
Happiness, bright as the brave,
Beautiful light of the sun:

Soft may the sanctified sod
Rest on the father who led
Bob from the gutter, unshod—
Covered his cold little head !

Bob from the foot to the crown
Measured a yard, and no more—
Baby alone in the town,
Homeless, and hungry, and sore !
Child that was never a child,
Hiding away from the rain,
Draggled, and dirty, and wild,
Down in a pipe of the drain:

Poor little beggar was Bob—
Couldn't afford to be sick !
Getting a penny a job ;
Sometimes a curse and a kick:
Father was killed by the drink,
Mother was driven to shame ;
Bob couldn't manage to think—
He had forgotten their name:

God was in heaven above,
Flowers illumined the ground,
Women of infinite love
Lived in the palaces round—
Saints with the character sweet
Found in the fathers of old,
Laboured in alley and street—
Baby slept out in the cold:

Nobody noticed the child—
Nobody knew of the mite
Creeping about like a wild
Thing in the shadow of night.
Beaten by drunkards and cowed—
Frightened to speak or to sob—
How could he ask you aloud,
“*Have you a penny for Bob?*”

Few were the pennies he got—
Seldom could hide them away,
Watched by the ravenous sot
Ever at wait for his prey:
Poor little man! He would weep
Oft for a morsel of bread;
Coppers he wanted to keep
Went to the tavern instead.

This was his history, friend—
Ragged, unhoused, and alone;
How could the child comprehend
Love that he never had known?
Hunted about in the world,
Crouching in crevices dim,
Crust with a curse at him hurled
Stood for a kindness with him.

Little excited his joy—
Bun after doing a job;
Mother of bright-headed boy,
Think of the motherless Bob!

High in the heavens august
 Providence saw him, and said—
 “*Out of the pits of the dust*
Lift him, and cover his head.”

Ah, the ineffable grace,
 Father of children, in Thee!
 Boy in a radiant place,
 Fanned by the breeze of the sea—
 Child on a lullaby lap
 Said, in the pause of his pain,
 “*Mother, don't bury my cap—*
Give it to Bob in the lane.”

Beautiful bidding of Death!
 What could she do but obey,
 Even when suffering Faith
 Hadn't the power to pray?
 So, in the fall of the year,
 Saint with the fatherly head
 Hunted for somebody's dear—
 “*Somebody's darling,*” he said:

Bob, who was nobody's child,
 Sitting on nobody's lap,
 Draggled, and dirty, and wild—
 Bob got the little one's cap.
 Strange were compassionate words!
 Waif of the alley and lane
 Dreamed of the music of birds
 Floating about in the rain.

White-headed father in God,
Over thy beautiful grave
Green is the grass of the sod,
Soft is the sound of the wave.
Down by the slopes of the sea
Often and often will sob
Boy who was fostered by thee—
This is the story of Bob.

NARRARA CREEK

FROM the rainy hill-heads, where, in starts and
in spasms,

Leaps wild the white torrent from chasms to chasms—
From the home of bold echoes, whose voices of
wonder

Fly out of blind caverns struck black by high thun-
der—

Through gorges august, in whose nether recesses
Is heard the far psalm of unseen wildernesses—
Like a dominant spirit, a strong-handed sharer
Of spoil with the tempest, comes down the Narrara.

Yea, where the great sword of the hurricane cleaveth
The forested fells that the dark never leaveth—
By fierce-featured crags, in whose evil abysses
The clammy snake coils, and the flat adder hisses—
Past lordly rock temples, where Silence is riven
By the anthems supreme of the four winds of heaven—
It speeds, with the cry of the streams of the fountains
It chained to its sides, and dragged down from the
mountains !

But when it goes forth from the slopes with a sally—
Being strengthened with tribute from many a valley—
It broadens, and brightens, and thereupon marches
Above the stream sapphires, and under green arches,
With the rhythm of majesty—careless of cumber—
Its might in repose, and its fierceness in slumber—
Till it beams on the plains, where the wind is a bearer
Of words from the sea to the stately Narrara !

Narrara ! grand son of the haughty hill torrent,
Too late in my day have I looked at thy current—
Too late in my life to discern and inherit
The soul of thy beauty, the joy of thy spirit !
With the years of the youth and the hairs of the
hoary,

I sit like a shadow outside of thy glory ;
Nor look with the morning-like feelings, O river,
That illumined the boy in the days gone for ever.

Ah ! sad are the sounds of old ballads which borrow
One-half of their grief from the listener's sorrow ;
And sad are the eyes of the pilgrim who traces
The ruins of Time in revisited places ;
But sadder than all is the sense of his losses
That cometh to one when a sudden age crosses
And cripples his manhood. So, stricken by fate, I
Felt older at thirty than some do at eighty:

Because I believe in the beautiful story—
The poem of Greece in the days of her glory—

That the high-seated Lord of the woods and the
waters

Has peopled His world with His deified daughters—
That flowerful forests, and waterways streaming,
Are gracious with goddesses glowing and gleaming—
I pray that thy singing divinity, fairer
Than wonderful women, may listen, Narrara !

O spirit of sea-going currents—thou being
The child of immortals, all-knowing, all-seeing—
Thou hast at thy heart the dark truth that I borrow
For the song that I sing thee, no fanciful sorrow ;
In the sight of thine eyes is the history written
Of Love smitten down as the strong leaf is smitten ;
And before thee there goeth a phantom beseeching
For faculties forfeited—hopes beyond reaching.

* * * * *

Thou knowest, O sister of deities blazing
With splendour ineffable, beauty amazing,
What life the gods gave me—what largess I tasted—
The youth thrown away, and the faculties wasted.
I might, as thou seest, have stood in high places,
Instead of in pits where the brand of disgrace is,
A byword for scoffers—a butt, and a caution,
With the grave of poor Burns and Maginn for my
portion.

But the heart of the Father Supreme is offended,
And my life in the light of His favour is ended ;

And, whipped by inflexible devils, I shiver,
With a hollow "*Too late*" in my hearing for ever ;
But thou—being sinless, exalted, supernal,
The daughter of diademed gods, the eternal—
Shalt shine in thy waters when time and existence
Have dwindled, like stars, in unspeakable distance.

But the face of thy river—the torrented power
That smites at the rock while it fosters the flower—
Shall gleam in my dreams with the summer-look
splendid,
And the beauty of woodlands and waterfalls blended ;
And often I'll think of far-forested noises,
And the emphasis deep of grand sea-going voices,
And turn to Narrara the eyes of a lover,
When the sorrowful days of my singing are over:

PERSIA

I AM writing this song at the close
Of a beautiful day of the spring
In a dell where the daffodil grows,
By a grove of the glimmering wing ;
From glades where a musical word
Comes ever from luminous fall,
I send you the song of a bird
That I wish to be dear to you all:

I have given my darling the name
Of a land at the gates of the day,
Where morning is always the same,
And spring never passes away.
With a prayer for a lifetime of light,
I christened her Persia, you see ;
And I hope that some fathers to-night
Will kneel in the spirit with me:

She is only commencing to look
At the beauty in which she is set ;
And forest, and flower, and brook,
To her are all mysteries yet.

I know that to many my words
 Will seem insignificant things ;
But *you* who are mothers of birds
 Will feel for the father who sings:

For all of you doubtless have been
 Where sorrows are many and wild ;
And you *know* what a beautiful scene
 Of this world can be made by a child:
I am sure, if they listen to this,
 Sweet women will quiver, and long
To tenderly stoop to and kiss
 The Persia I've put in a song:

And I'm certain the critic will pause,
 And excuse, for the sake of my bird,
My sins against critical laws—
 The slips in the thought and the word.
And, haply, some dear little face
 Of his own to his mind will occur—
Some Persia who brightens his place—
 And I'll be forgiven for her.

A life that is turning to grey
 Has hardly been happy, you see ;
But the rose that has dropped on my way
 Is morning and music to me:
Yea, she that I hold by the hand
 Is changing white winter to green,
And making a light of the land—
 All fathers will know what I mean :

All women and men who have known
The sickness of sorrow and sin,
Will feel—having babes of their own—
My verse and the pathos therein:
For that must be touching which shows
How a life has been led from the wild
To a garden of glitter and rose,
By the flower-like hand of a child:

She is strange to this wonderful sphere ;
One summer and winter have set
Since God left her radiance here—
Her sweet second year is not yet:
The world is so lovely and new
To eyes full of eloquent light,
And, sisters, I'm hoping that you
Will pray for my Persia to-night:

For I, who have suffered so much,
And know what the bitterness is,
Am sad to think sorrow must touch
Some day even darlings like this !
But sorrow is part of this life,
And, therefore, a father doth long
For the blessing of mother and wife
On the bird he has put in a song:

ORARA¹

THE strong sob of the chafing stream
That seaward fights its way
Down crags of glitter, dells of gleam,
Is in the hills to-day:

But far and faint, a grey-winged form
Hangs where the wild lights wane—
The phantom of a bygone storm,
A ghost of wind and rain:

The soft white feet of afternoon
Are on the shining meads,
The breeze is as a pleasant tune
Amongst the happy reeds:

The fierce, disastrous, flying fire,
That made the great caves ring,
And scarred the slope, and broke the spire,
Is a forgotten thing:

¹ A tributary of the Clarence River.

The air is full of mellow sounds,
The wet hill-heads are bright,
And, down the fall of fragrant grounds.
The deep ways flame with light:

A rose-red space of stream I see,
Past banks of tender fern ;
A radiant brook, unknown to me
Beyond its upper turn:

The singing silver life I hear,
Whose home is in the green,
Far-folded woods of fountains clear,
Where I have never been:

Ah, brook above the upper bend,
I often long to stand
Where you in soft, cool shades descend
From the untrodden land !

Ah, folded woods, that hide the grace
Of moss and torrents strong,
I often wish to know the face
Of that which sings your song !

But I may linger, long, and look
Till night is over all :
My eyes will never see the brook,
Or sweet, strange waterfall.

The world is round me with its heat,
And toil, and cares that tire ;
I cannot with my feeble feet
Climb after my desire:

But, on the lap of lands unseen,
Within a secret zone,
There shine diviner gold and green
Than man has ever known:

And where the silver waters sing
Down hushed and holy dells,
The flower of a celestial Spring—
A tenfold splendour, dwells:

Yea, in my dream of fall and brook
By far sweet forests furred,
I see that light for which I look
In vain through all the world—

The glory of a larger sky
On slopes of hills sublime,
That speak with God and morning, high
Above the ways of Time !

Ah ! haply, in this sphere of change
Where shadows spoil the beam,
It would not do to climb that range
And test my radiant Dream:

The slightest glimpse of yonder place,
Untrodden and alone,
Might wholly kill that nameless grace
The charm of the unknown:

And therefore, though I look and long,
Perhaps the lot is bright
Which keeps the river of the song
A beauty out of sight:

PYTHEAS

GAUL, whose keel in far, dim ages ploughed
wan widths of polar sea—

Gray old sailor of Massilia, who hath woven wreath
for thee ?

Who amongst the world's high singers ever breathed
the tale sublime

Of the man who coasted England in the misty
dawn of time ?

Leaves of laurel, lights of music—these and these
have never shed

Glory on the name unheard of, lustre on the van-
ished head !

Lords of song, and these are many, never yet have
raised the lay

For the white, wind-beaten seaman of a wild,
forgotten day !

Harp of shining son of Godhead still is as a voice
august ;

But the man who first saw Britain sleeps beneath
unnoticed dust:

From the fair, calm bays Hellenic, from the crescents
and the bends,
Round the wall of crystal Athens, glowing in gold
evening-ends,
Sailed abroad the grand, strong father, with his
face towards the snow
Of the awful northern mountains, twenty centuries
ago !
On the seas that none had heard of, by the shores
where none had furl'd
Wing of canvas, passed this elder to the limits of
the world !
Lurid limits, loud with thunder and the roar of
flaming cone,
Ghastly tracts of ice and whirlwind lying in a dim,
blind zone,
Bitter belts of naked region, girt about by cliffs
of fear,
Where the Spirit of the Darkness dwells in heaven
half the year !

Yea, against the wild, weird Thule, steered the
stranger through the gates
Opened by a fire eternal, into tempest-trampled
straits—
Thule, lying like a nightmare on the borders of the
Pole :
Neither land, nor air, nor water, but a mixture of
the whole !

Dumb, dead chaos, grey as spectre, now a mist
and now a cloud,
Where the winds cry out for ever, and the wave
is always loud:
Here the lord of many waters, in the great exalted
years,
Saw the sight that no man knows of—heard the
sound that no man hears!
Felt that God was in the Shadow ere he turned
his prow and sped
To the sweet green fields of England with the sun-
shine overhead:

In the day when pallid Persia fled before the
Thracian steel,
By the land that now is London passed the strange
Hellenic keel:
Up the bends of quiet river, hard by banks of grove
and flower,
Sailed the father through a silence in the old majestic
hour.
Not a sound of fin or feather, not a note of wave
or breeze,
Next the face of sleeping streamlets, broke the rest
of stirless trees!
Not a foot was in the forest, not a voice was in the
wood,
When the elder from Massilia over English waters
stood!

All was new, and hushed; and holy—all was pure
untrodden space,

When the lord of many oceans turned to it a rever-
ent face:

Man who knew resplendent Athens, set and framed
in silver sea,

Did not dream a dream of England—England of
the years to be!

Friend of fathers like to Plato—bards august and
hallowed seers—

Did not see that tenfold glory, Britain of the future
years!

Spirit filled with Grecian music, songs that charm
the dark away;

On that large, supreme occasion, did not note diviner
lay!

Did not hear the voice of Shakespeare—all the
mighty life was still;

Down the slopes that dipped to seaward, on the
shoulders of the hill;

But the gold and green were brighter than the
bloom of Thracian springs;

And a strange, surpassing beauty shone upon the
face of things:

In a grave that no man thinks of—back from far-
forgotten bays—

Sleeps the grey, wind-beaten sailor of the old
exalted days:

He that coasted Wales and Dover, he that first
saw Sussex plains,
Passed away with head unlaurelled in the wild
Thessalian rains !
In a space by hand untended, by a fen of vapours
blind,
Lies the king of many waters—out of sight and out
of mind !
No one brings the yearly blossom—no one culls the
flower of grace,
For the shell of mighty father buried in that lonely
place !
But the winds are low and holy, and the songs of
sweetness flow,
Where he fell asleep for ever, twenty centuries ago.

LEICHHARDT

LORDLY harp, by lordly master wakened from
majestic sleep,

Yet shall speak and yet shall sing the words which
make the fathers weep !

Voice surpassing human voices—high, unearthly
harmony—

Yet shall tell the tale of hero, in exalted years to
be !

In the ranges, by the rivers, on the uplands, down
the dells,

Where the sound of wind and wave is, where the
mountain anthem swells,

Yet shall float the song of lustre, sweet with tears
and fair with flame,

Shining with a theme of beauty, holy with our
Leichhardt's name !

Name of him who faced for science thirsty tracts of
bitter glow,

Lurid lands that no one knows of—two-and-thirty
years ago:

Born by hills of hard grey weather, far beyond the
northern seas,
German mountains were his "sponsors," and his
mates were German trees ;
Grandeur of the old-world forests passed into his
radiant soul,
With the song of stormy crescents, where the
mighty waters roll:
Thus he came to be a brother of the river and the
wood—
Thus the leaf, the bird, the blossom, grew a gracious
sisterhood ;
Nature led him to her children, in a space of light
divine :
Kneeling down, he said—" My mother, let me be as
one of thine !"
So she took him—thence she loved him, lodged him
in her home of dreams,
Taught him what the trees were saying, schooled
him in the speech of streams.

For her sake he crossed the waters—loving her, he
left the place
Hallowed by his father's ashes, and his human
mother's face—
Passed the seas and entered temples domed by
skies of deathless beam,
Walled about by hills majestic, stately spires and
peaks supreme !

Here he found a larger beauty—here the lovely
lights were new
On the slopes of many flowers, down the gold-green
dells of dew:
In the great august cathedral of his holy lady, he
Daily worshipped at her altars, nightly bent the
reverent knee—
Heard the hymns of night and morning, learned
the psalm of solitudes ;
Knew that God was very near him—felt His pre-
sence in the woods !

But the starry angel, Science, from the home of
glittering wings,
Came one day and talked to Nature by melodious
mountain springs :
“ Let thy son be mine,” she pleaded ; “ lend him
for a space,” she said,
“ So that he may earn the laurels I have woven
for his head ! ”
And the lady, Nature, listened ; and she took her
loyal son
From the banks of moss and myrtle—led him to
the Shining One !
Filled his lordly soul with gladness—told him of a
spacious zone
Eye of man had never looked at, human foot had
never known:

Then the angel, Science, beckoned, and he knelt
and whispered low—

“ I will follow where you lead me ”—two-and-
thirty years ago:

On the tracts of thirst and furnace—on the dumb,
blind, burning plain,

Where the red earth gapes for moisture, and the
wan leaves hiss for rain,

In a land of dry, fierce thunder, did he ever pause
and dream

Of the cool green German valley and the singing
German stream ?

When the sun was as a menace, glaring from a sky of
brass,

Did he ever rest, in visions, on a lap of German
grass ?

Past the waste of thorny terrors, did he reach a
sphere of rills,

In a region yet untravelled, ringed by fair untrodden
hills ?

Was the spot where last he rested pleasant as an old-
world lea ?

Did the sweet winds come and lull him with the
music of the sea ?

Let us dream so—let us hope so ! Haply in a cool
green glade,

Far beyond the zone of furnace, Leichhardt's
sacred shell was laid !

Haply in some leafy valley, underneath blue,
gracious skies,
In the sound of mountain water, the heroic traveller
lies !
Down a dell of dewy myrtle, where the light is
soft and green,
And a month like English April sits, an immemorial
queen,
Let us think that he is resting—think that by a
radiant grave
Ever come the songs of forest, and the voices of
the wave !
Thus we want our sons to find him—find him under
floral bowers,
Sleeping by the trees he loved so, covered with his
darling flowers !

CHRISTMAS CREEK

PHANTOM streams were in the distance—
mocking lights of lake and pool—
Ghosts of trees of soft green lustre—groves of
shadows deep and cool !
Yea, some devil ran before them changing skies
of brass to blue,
Setting bloom where curse is planted, where a grass-
blade never grew.
Six there were, and high above them glared a wild
and wizened sun,
Ninety leagues from where the waters of the singing
valleys run.
There before them, there behind them, was the great,
stark, stubborn plain,
Where the dry winds hiss for ever, and the blind
earth moans for rain !
Ringed about by tracks of furnace, ninety leagues
from stream and tree,
Six there were, with wasted faces, working north-
wards to the sea !

* * * * *

Ah, the bitter, hopeless desert ! Here these broken
human wrecks

Trod the wilds where sand of fire is with the spiteful
spinifex,

Toiled through spheres that no bird knows of, where
with fiery emphasis

Hell hath stamped its awful mint-mark deep on
every thing that is !

Toiled and thirsted, strove and suffered ! *This*
was where December's breath

As a wind of smiting flame is on weird, haggard
wastes of death !

This was where a withered moan is, and the gleam
of weak, wan star,

And a thunder full of menace sends its mighty
voices far !

This was where black execrations, from some dark
tribunal hurled,

Set the brand of curse on all things in the morning
of the world !

* * * * *

One man yielded—then another—then a lad of
nineteen years

Reeled and fell, with English rivers singing softly
in his ears,

English grasses started round him—then the grace
of Sussex lea

Came and touched him with the beauty of a green
land by the sea !

Old-world faces thronged about him—old-world
voices spoke to him ;

But his speech was like a whisper, and his eyes were
very dim.

In a dream of golden evening, beaming on a quiet
strand,

Lay the stranger till a bright One came and took
him by the hand.

England vanished, died the voices ! but he heard
a holier tone,

And an angel that we know not led him to the lands
unknown !

* * * * *

Six there were, but three were taken ! Three were
left to struggle still ;

But against the red horizon flamed a horn of
brindled hill !

But beyond the northern skyline, past a wall of
steep austere,

Lay the land of light and coolness in an April-
coloured year !

“ Courage, brothers ! ” cried the leader. “ On the
slope of yonder peak

There are tracts of herb and shadow, and the
channels of the creek ! ”

So they made one last great effort—haled their
beasts through brake and briar—

Set their feet on spurs of furnace—grappled spikes
and crags of fire—

Fought the stubborn mountain forces, smote down
naked, natural powers,
Till they gazed from thrones of Morning on a sphere
of streams and flowers.

Out behind them was the desert, glaring like a sea
of brass !

Here before them were the valleys, fair with moon-
light-coloured grass !

At their backs were haggard waste-lands, bickering
in a wicked blaze !

In their faces beamed the waters, marching down
melodious ways !

Touching was the cool, soft lustre over laps of lawn
and lea ;

And majestic was the great road Morning made
across the sea.

On the sacred day of Christmas, after seven months
of grief,

Rested three of six who started, on a bank of moss
and leaf—

Rested by a running river, in a hushed, a holy week ;
And they named the stream that saved them—
named it fitly—"Christmas Creek."

JIM THE SPLITTER

THE bard who is singing of Wollombi Jim
Is hardly just now in the requisite trim
To sit on his Pegasus fairly ;
Besides, he is bluntly informed by the Muse
That Jim is a subject no singer should choose ;
For Jim is poetical rarely.

But being full up of the myths that are Greek—
Of the classic, and noble, and nude, and antique,
Which means not a rag but the pelt on ;
This poet intends to give Daphne the slip,
For the sake of a hero in moleskin and kip
With a jumper and snake-buckle belt on.

No party is Jim of the Pericles type—
He is modern right up from the toe to the pipe ;
And being no reader or roamer,
He hasn't Euripides much in the head ;
And let it be carefully, tenderly said,
He never has analyzed Homer.

He can roar out a song of the twopenny kind ;
But, knowing the beggar so well, I'm inclined
 To believe that a "par." about Kelly,
The rascal who skulked under shadow of curse,
Is more in his line than the happiest verse
 On the glittering pages of Shelley.

You mustn't, however, adjudge him in haste,
Because a red robber is more to his taste
 Than Ruskin, Rossetti, or Dante !
You see, he was bred in a bangalow wood,
And bangalow pith was the principal food
 His mother served out in her shanty.

His knowledge is this—he can tell in the dark
What timber will split by the feel of the bark ;
 And rough as his manner of speech is,
His wits to the fore he can readily bring
In passing off ash as the genuine thing
 When scarce in the forest the beech is.

In girthing a tree that he sells in the round,
He assumes, as a rule, that the body is sound,
 And measures, forgetting to bark it !
He may be a ninny, but still the old dog
Can plug to perfection a pipe of a log
 And palm it away on the market.

He splits a fair shingle, but holds to the rule
Of his father's, and, haply, his grandfather's school ;
Which means that he never has blundered,
When tying his shingles, by slinging in more
Than the recognized number of ninety and four
To the bundle he sells for a hundred !

When asked by the market for ironbark red,
It always occurs to the Wollombi head
To do a " mahogany " swindle.
In forests where never the ironbark grew,
When Jim is at work, it would flabbergast you
To see how the ironbarks dwindle.

He can stick to the saddle, can Wollombi Jim,
And when a buckjumper dispenses with him,
The leather goes off with the rider.
And, as to a team, over gully and hill
He can travel with twelve on the breadth of a quill
And boss the unlucky offsider.

He shines at his best at the tiller of saw,
On the top of the pit, where his whisper is law
To the gentleman working below him.
When the pair of them pause in a circle of dust,
Like a monarch he poses—exalted, august—
There's nothing this planet can show him !

For a man is a *man* who can sharpen and set,
And *he* is the only thing masculine yet
 According to sawyer and splitter—
Or rather according to Wollombi Jim ;
And nothing will tempt me to differ from him,
 For Jim is a bit of a hitter.

But, being full up, we'll allow him to rip,
Along with his lingo, his saw, and his whip—
 He isn't the classical notion.
And, after a night in his humpy, you see
A person of orthodox habits would be
 Refreshed by a dip in the ocean.

To tot him right up from the heel to the head,
He isn't the Grecian of whom we have read—
 His face is a trifle too shady.
The nymph in green valleys of Thessaly dim
Would never jack up her old lover for him,
 For she has the tastes of a lady.

So much for our hero ! A statuesque foot
Would suffer by wearing that heavy-nailed boot—
 Its owner is hardly Achilles.
However, he's happy ! He cuts a great fig
In the land where a coat is no part of the rig—
 In the country of damper and billies.

KINGSBOROUGH

A WAVING of hats and of hands,
The voices of thousands in one,
A shout from the ring and the stands,
And a glitter of heads in the sun!
“*They are off—they are off!*” is the roar,
As the cracks settle down to the race,
With the “yellow and black” to the fore,
And the Panic blood forcing the pace.

At the back of the course, and away
Where the running-ground home again wheels,
Grubb travels in front on the “bay,”
With a feather-weight hard at his heels.
But Yeomans, you see, is “about,”
And the wily New Zealander waits,
Though the high-blooded flyer is out,
Whose rider and colours are Tait’s:

Look! Ashworth comes on with a run
To the head of the Levity colt;
And the fleet—the magnificent son
Of Panic is “shooting his bolt.”

Hurrah for the Weatherbit strain !

A Fireworks is first in the straight ;
And "*A Kelpie will win it again !*"
Is the roar from the ring to the gate.

The leader must have it—but no !

For see, full of running, behind
A beautiful, wonderful foe
With the speed of the thunder and wind !
A flashing of whips, and a cry,
And Ashworth sits down on his horse,
With Kingsborough's head at his thigh
And the "field" scattered over the course !

In a clamour of calls and acclaim

The pair race away from the "ruck" :
The horse to the last of it game—
A marvel of muscle and pluck !
But the foot of the Sappho is there,
And Kingston's invincible strength ;
And the numbers go up in the air—
The colt is the first by a length !

The first, and the favourite too !

The terror that came from his stall,
With the spirit of fire and of dew,
To show the road home to them all ;
From the back of the field to the straight
He has come, as is ever his wont,
And carried his welter-like weight,
Like a tradesman, right through to the front.

No wonder at cheering a whit,
For this is the popular horse,
That never was beaten when "fit"
By any four hoofs on the course;
To starter for Leger and Cup,
Has he ever shown feather of fear
When saddle and rider were up
And the case to be argued was clear?

No! rather the questionless pluck
Of the blood unaccustomed to yield,
Preferred to "spread-eagle" the ruck,
And make a long tail of the "field."
Bear witness, ye lovers of sport,
To races of which he can boast,
When flyer by flyer was caught,
And beaten by lengths on the post!

Lo! this is the beautiful bay—
Of many, the marvellous one
Who showed us last season the way
That a Leger should always be won.
There was something to look at and learn,
Ye shrewd irreproachable "touts,"
When the Panic colt tired at the turn,
And the thing was all over—but shouts!

Aye, that was the "spin," when the twain
Came locked by the bend of the course,
The Zealander pulling his rein,
And the veteran hard on his horse!

When Ashworth was "riding" 'twas late
For his friends to applaud on the stands,
And the Sappho colt entered the straight
With the race of the year in his hands:

Just look at his withers, his thighs!
And the way that he carries his head!
Has Richmond more wonderful eyes,
Or Melbourne that spring in his tread?
The grand, the intelligent glance
From a spirit that fathoms and feels,
Makes the heart of a horse-lover dance
Till the warm-blooded life in him reels.

What care have I ever to know
His owner by sight or by name?
The horse that I glory in so
Is still the magnificent same.
I own I am proud of the pluck
Of the sportsman that never was bought;
But the nag that "spread-eagled the ruck"
Is bound to be first in my thought:

For who that has masculine flame,
Or who that is thorough at all,
Can help feeling joy in the fame
Of this king of the kings of the stall?
What odds if assumption has sealed
His soulless hereafter abode,
So long as he shows to his "field"
The gleam of his hoofs, and the road?

BILL THE BULLOCK-DRIVER

THE leaders of millions, the lords of the lands,
Who sway the wide world with their will
And shake the great globe with the strength of
their hands,
Flash past us—unnoticed by Bill.

The elders of science who measure the spheres
And weigh the vast bulk of the sun—
Who see the grand lights beyond æons of years,
Are less than a bullock to *one*.

The singers that sweeten all time with their song—
Pure voices that make us forget
Humanity's drama of marvellous wrong—
To Bill are as mysteries yet.

By thunders of battle and nation uphurled,
Bill's sympathies never were stirred :
The helmsmen who stand at the wheel of the world
By him are unknown and unheard.

What trouble has Bill for the ruin of lands,
 Or the quarrels of temple and throne,
 So long as the whip that he holds in his hands,
 And the team that he drives, are his own ?

As straight and as sound as a slab without crack,
 Our Bill is a king in his way :
 Though he camps by the side of a shingle track,
 And sleeps on the bed of his dray.

A whip-lash to him is as dear as a rose
 Would be to a delicate maid ;
 He carries his darlings wherever he goes,
 In a pocket-book tattered and frayed.

The joy of a bard when he happens to write
 A song like the song of his dream
 Is nothing at all to our hero's delight
 In the pluck and the strength of his team.

For the kings of the earth, for the faces august
 Of princes, the millions may shout ;
 To Bill, as he lumbers along in the dust,
 A bullock's the grandest thing out.

His four-footed friends are the friends of his choice—
 No lover is Bill of your dames ;
 But the cattle that turn at the sound of his voice
 Have the sweetest of features and names.

A father's chief joy is a favourite son,
When he reaches some eminent goal,
But the pride of Bill's heart is the hairy-legged one
That pulls with a will at the pole.

His dray is no living, responsible thing,
But he gives it the gender of life ;
And, seeing his fancy is free in the wing,
It suits him as well as a wife.

He thrives like an Arab. Between the two wheels
Is his bedroom, where, lying up-curved,
He thinks for himself, like a sultan, and feels
That his home is the best in the world.

For, even though cattle, like subjects, will break
At times from the yoke and the band,
Bill knows how to act when his rule is at stake,
And is therefore a lord of the land.

Of course he must dream ; but be sure that his dreams,
If happy, must compass, alas !
Fat bullocks at feed by improbable streams,
Knee-deep in improbable grass.

No poet is Bill, for the visions of night
To him are as visions of day ;
And the pipe that in sleep he endeavours to light
Is the pipe that he smokes on the dray.

To the mighty, magnificent temples of God,
 In the hearts of the dominant hills,
 Bill's eyes are as blind as the fire-blackened clod
 That burns far away from the rills.

Through beautiful, bountiful forests that screen
 A marvel of blossoms from heat—
 Whose lights are the mellow and golden and green—
 Bill walks with irreverent feet.

The manifold splendours of mountain and wood
 By Bill like nonentities slip ;
 He loves the black myrtle because it is good
 As a handle to lash to his whip.

And thus through the world, with a swing in his
 tread,
 Our hero self-satisfied goes ;
 With his cabbage-tree hat on the back of his head,
 And the string of it under his nose.

Poor bullocky Bill ! In the circles select
 Of the scholars he hasn't a place ;
 But he walks like a *man*, with his forehead erect,
 And he looks at God's day in the face.

For, rough as he seems, he would shudder to wrong
 A dog with the loss of a hair ;
 And the angels of shine and superlative song
 See his heart and the deity there.

210 BILL THE BULLOCK-DRIVER

Few know him, indeed ; but the beauty that glows
In the forest is loveliness still ;
And Providence helping the life of the rose
Is a Friend and a Father to Bill:

BILLY VICKERS

NO song is this of leaf and bird,
And gracious waters flowing ;
I'm sick at heart, for I have heard
Big Billy Vickers "blowing."

He'd never take a leading place
In chambers legislative :
This booby with the vacant face—
This hoddy-doddy native !

Indeed, I'm forced to say aside,
To you, O reader, solely,
He only wants the horns and hide
To be a bullock wholly.

But, like all noodles, he is vain ;
And when his tongue is wagging,
I feel inclined to copy Cain,
And drop him for his bragging.

He, being Bush-bred, stands, of course,
Six feet his dirty socks in ;
His lingo is confined to horse,
And plough, and pig, and oxen.

Two years ago he'd less to say
Within his little circuit ;
But now he has, besides a dray,
A team of twelve to work it.

No wonder is it that he feels
Inclined to clack and rattle
About his bullocks and his wheels—
He owns a dozen cattle.

In short, to be exact and blunt,
In his own estimation
He's " out and out " the head and front
Top-sawyer of creation !

For, mark me, he can " sit a buck "
For hours and hours together ;
And never horse has had the luck
To pitch him from the leather.

If ever he should have a " spill "
Upon the grass or gravel,
Be sure of this, the saddle will
With Billy Vickers travel.

At punching oxen you may guess
There's nothing out can "camp" him :
He has, in fact, the slouch and dress
Which bullock-driver stamp him.

I do not mean to give offence,
But I have vainly striven
To ferret out the difference
'Twixt driver and the driven.

Of course, the statements herein made
In every other stanza
Are Billy's own ; and I'm afraid
They're stark extravaganza.

I feel constrained to treat as trash
His noisy fiddle-faddle
About his doings with the lash,
His feats upon the saddle.

But grant he " knows his way about,"
Or grant that he is silly,
There cannot be the slightest doubt
Of Billy's faith in Billy.

Of all the doings of the day
His ignorance is utter ;
But he can quote the price of hay,
The current rate of butter.

His notions of our leading men
Are mixed and misty very :
He knows a cochin-china hen—
He never speaks of Berry.

As you'll assume, he hasn't heard
Of Madame Patti's singing ;
But I will stake my solemn word
He knows what maize is bringing.

Surrounded by majestic peaks,
By lordly mountain ranges,
Where highest voice of thunder speaks
His aspect never changes.

The grand Pacific there beyond
His dirty hut is glowing :
He only sees a big salt pond,
O'er which his grain is going.

The sea that covers half the sphere,
With all its stately speeches,
Is held by Bill to be a mere
Broad highway for his peaches.

Through Nature's splendid temples he
Plods, under mountains hoary ;
But he has not the eyes to see
Their grandeur and their glory.

A bullock in a biped's boot,
I iterate, is Billy !
He crushes with a careless foot
The touching water-lily.

I've said enough—I'll let him go !
If he could read these verses,
He'd pepper me for hours, I know,
With his peculiar curses:

But this is sure, he'll never change
His manners loud and "flashy,"
Nor learn with neatness to arrange
His clothing, cheap and trashy.

Like other louts, he'll jog along,
And swig at shanty liquors,
And chew and spit. Here ends the song
Of Mr. Billy Vickers.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN FAIRFAX

[*Written after reading a touching poem by Mrs. Browning.*]

BECAUSE this man fulfilled his days,
Like one who walks with steadfast gaze
Averted from forbidden ways
With lures of fair, false flowerage deep,
Behold the Lord whose throne is dim
With fires of flaming seraphim—
The Christ that suffered sent for him :
“ He giveth His beloved sleep.”

Think not that souls whose deeds august
Put sin to shame and make men just
Become at last the helpless dust
That wintering winds through waste-lands sweep !
The higher life within us cries,
Like some fine spirit from the skies,
“ The Father’s blessing on us lies—
‘ He giveth His beloved sleep.’ ”

Not human sleep—the fitful rest
With evil shapes of dreams distressed,—
But perfect quiet, unexpressed
By any worldly word we keep.

The dim Hereafter framed in creeds
 May not be this ; but He who reads
 Our lives, sets flowers on wayside weeds—
 “ He giveth His beloved sleep.”

Be sure this hero who has passed
 The human space—the outer vast—
 Who worked in harness to the last,
 Doth now a hallowed harvest reap.
 Love sees his grave, nor turns away—
 The eyes of faith are like the day,
 And grief has not a word to say—
 “ He giveth His beloved sleep.”

That fair rare spirit, Honour, throws
 A light, which puts to shame the rose,
 Across his grave, because she knows
 The son whose ashes it doth keep ;
 And, like far music, *this* is heard—
 “ Behold the man who never stirred,
 By word of his, an angry word !—
 ‘ He giveth His beloved sleep.’ ”

He earned his place. Within his hands,
 The power which counsels and commands,
 And shapes the social life of lands,
 Became a blessing pure and deep.¹

¹ The Press.

Through thirty years of turbulence
 Our thoughts were sweetened with a sense
 Of his benignant influence—

“ He giveth His beloved sleep.”

No splendid talents, which excite
 Like music, songs, or floods of light,
 Were his ; but, rather, all those bright,
 Calm qualities of soul which reap
 A mute, but certain, fine respect,
 Not only from a source elect,
 But from the hearts of every sect—

“ He giveth His beloved sleep.”

He giveth His beloved rest !
 The faithful soul that onward pressed,
 Unswerving, from Life's east to west,
 By paths austere and passes steep,
 Is past all toil ; and, over Death,
 With reverent hands and prayerful breath,
 I plant this flower, alive with faith—

“ He giveth His beloved sleep.”

THE SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

[A prize poem, published with the kind permission of the proprietors of the "Sydney Morning Herald."]

NOW, while Orion, flaming south, doth set
A shining foot on hills of wind and wet—
Far haughty hills beyond the fountains cold
And dells of glimmering greenness manifold—
While August sings the advent of the Spring,
And in the calm is heard September's wing,
The lordly voice of song I ask of thee,
High, deathless radiance—crowned Calliope !
What though we never hear the great god's lays
Which made all music the Hellenic days—
What though the face of thy fair heaven beams
Still only on the crystal Grecian streams—
What though a sky of new, strange beauty shines
Where no white Dryad sings within the pines :
Here is a land whose large, imperial grace
Must tempt thee, goddess, in thine holy place !
Here are the dells of peace and plenilune,
The hills of morning and the slopes of noon ;
Here are the waters dear to days of blue,

And dark-green hollows of the noontide dew ;
 Here lies the harp, by fragrant wood-winds fanned,
 That waits the coming of thy quickening hand !
 And shall Australia, framed and set in sea,
 August with glory, wait in vain for thee ?
 Shall more than Tempe's beauty be unsung
 Because its shine is strange—its colours young ?
 No ! by the full, live light which puts to shame
 The far, fair splendours of Thessalian flame—
 By yonder forest psalm which sinks and swells
 Like that of Phocis, grave with oracles—
 By deep prophetic winds that come and go
 Where whispering springs of pondering mountains
 flow—

By lute-like leaves and many-languaged caves,
 Where sounds the strong hosanna of the waves,
 This great new majesty shall not remain
 Unhonoured by the high immortal strain !
 Soon, soon, the music of the southern lyre
 Shall start and blossom with a speech like fire !
 Soon, soon, shall flower and flow in flame divine
 Thy songs, Apollo, and Euterpe, thine !
 Strong, shining sons of Delphicus shall rise
 With all their father's glory in their eyes ;
 And then shall beam on yonder slopes and springs
 The light that swims upon the light of things.
 And therefore, lingering in a land of lawn,
 I, standing here, a singer of the dawn,
 With gaze upturned to where wan summits lie
 Against the morning flowing up the sky—

Whose eyes in dreams of many colours see
A glittering vision of the years to be—
Do ask of thee, Calliope, one hour
Of life pre-eminent with perfect power,
That I may leave a song whose lonely rays
May shine hereafter from these songless days.

For now there breaks across the faint grey range
The rose-red dawning of a radiant change.
A soft, sweet voice is in the valleys deep,
Where darkness droops and sings itself to sleep.
The grave, mute woods, that yet the silence hold
Of dim, dead ages, gleam with hints of gold.
Yon eastern cape that meets the straitened wave—
A twofold tower above the whistling cave—
Whose strength in thunder shields the gentle lea,
And makes a white wrath of a league of sea,
Now wears the face of peace ; and in the bay
The weak, spent voice of Winter dies away.
In every dell there is a whispering wing,
On every lawn a glimmer of the Spring ;
By every hill are growths of tender green—
On every slope a fair, new life is seen ;
And lo ! beneath the morning's blossoming fires,
The shining city of a hundred spires,
In mists of gold, by countless havens furled,
And glad with all the flags of all the world !

These are the shores where, in a dream of fear,

Cathay saw darkness dwelling half the year!¹
These are the coasts that old fallacious tales
Chained down with ice and ringed with sleepless
 gales!

This is the land that, in the hour of awe,
From Indian peaks the rapt Venetian saw!²
Here is the long grey line of strange sea wall
That checked the prow of the audacious Gaul,
What time he steered towards the southern snow,
From zone to zone, four hundred years ago!³
By yonder gulf, whose marching waters meet
The wine-dark currents from the isles of heat,
Strong sons of Europe, in a far dim year,
Faced ghastly foes, and felt the alien spear!
There, on a later dawn, by shipless waves,
The tender Grasses found forgotten graves.⁴
Far in the west, beyond those hills sublime,
Dirk Hartog anchored in the olden time;

¹ According to that eminent authority, Mr. R. H. Major, and others, the Great Southern Land is referred to in old Chinese records as a polar continent, subject to the long polar nights.

² Marco Polo mentions a large land called by the Malays Lochac. The northern coast was supposed to be in latitude 10° S. (*Vide* Bennett, and others.)

³ Mr. R. H. Major has discovered a map of Terra Australis dated A.D. 1555, and bearing the name of Le Testu, a French pilot. Le Testu must have visited these coasts some years before the date of the chart.

⁴ The sailors of the *Duyfhen*, a Dutch vessel which entered the Gulf of Carpentaria in A.D. 1606, were attacked by the natives. In the fray some of the whites were killed. No doubt these unlucky adventurers were the first Europeans to fall in Australia. (*Vide* Woods, and others.)

There, by a wild-faced bay, and in a cleft,
His shining name the fair-haired Northman left ;¹
And, on those broad imperial waters, far
Beneath the lordly occidental star,
Sailed Tasman down a great and glowing space
Whose softer lights were like his lady's face.
In dreams of her he roved from zone to zone,
And gave her lovely name to coasts unknown ;²
And saw, in streaming sunset everywhere,
The curious beauty of her golden hair,
By flaming tracts of tropic afternoon,
Where in low heavens hangs a fourfold moon.
Here, on the tides of a resplendent year,
By capes of jasper, came the buccaneer.³
Then, then, the wild men, flying from the beach,
First heard the clear, bold sounds of English speech ;
And then first fell across a Southern plain
The broad, strong shadows of a Saxon train.
Near yonder wall of stately cliff, that braves
The arrogance of congregated waves,
The daring son of grey old Yorkshire stood
And dreamed in a majestic solitude,
What time a gentle April shed its showers,
Aflame with sunset, on the Bay of Flowers.⁴
The noble seaman who withheld the hand,
And spared the Hector of his native land—

¹ Dirk Hartog left a tin plate, bearing his name, in Shark Bay, Western Australia. It was last seen in A.D. 1803.

² Abel Tasman's love for Maria Van Dieman is well known.

³ Dampier.

⁴ Botany Bay.

The single savage, yelling on the beach
 The dark, strange curses of barbaric speech.
 Exalted sailor ! whose benignant phrase
 Shines full of beauty in these latter days ;
 Who met the naked tribes of fiery skies
 With great, divine compassion in his eyes ;
 Who died, like Him of hoary Nazareth,
 That death august—the radiant martyr's death ;
 Who in the last hour showed the Christian face
 Whose crumbling beauty shamed the alien race.
 In peace he sleeps where deep eternal calms
 Lie round the land of heavy-fruited palms.
 Lo ! in that dell, behind a singing bar,
 Where deep, pure pools of glittering waters are,
 Beyond a mossy, yellow, gleaming glade,
 The last of Forby Sutherland was laid—
 The blue-eyed Saxon from the hills of snow
 Who fell asleep a hundred years ago.
 In flowerful shades, where gold and green are rife,
 Still rests the shell of his forgotten life.
 Far, far away, beneath some northern sky
 The fathers of his humble household lie ;
 But by his lonely grave are sapphire streams,
 And gracious woodlands, where the fire-fly gleams ;
 And ever comes across a silver lea
 The hymn sublime of the eternal sea.

On that bold hill, against a broad blue stream,
 Stood Arthur Phillip in a day of dream :
 What time the mists of morning westward rolled,

And heaven flowered on a bay of gold !
Here, in the hour that shines and sounds afar,
Flamed first old England's banner like a star ;
Here, in a time august with prayer and praise,
Was born the nation of these splendid days ;
And here this land's majestic yesterday
Of immemorial silence died away.

Where are the woods that, ninety summers back,
Stood hoar with ages by the water-track ?
Where are the valleys of the flashing wing,
The dim green margins and the glimmering spring ?
Where now the warrior of the forest race,
His glaring war-paint and his fearless face ?
The banks of April, and the groves of bird,
The glades of silence, and the pools unstirred,
The gleaming savage, and the whistling spear,
Passed with the passing of a wild old year !
A single torrent singing by the wave,
A shadowy relic in a mountain cave,
A ghost of fire in immemorial hills,
The whittled tree by folded wayside rills,
The call of bird that hides in hollows far,
Where feet of thunder, wings of winter are—
Of all that pass, these wrecks of wind and rain,
These touching memories—these alone remain !

What sun is this that beams and broadens west ?
What wonder this, in deathless glory dressed ?
What strange, sweet harp of highest god took flame

And gave this Troy its life, its light, its name ?
 What awful lyre of marvellous power and range
 Upraised this Iliou—wrought this dazzling change ?
 No shining singer of Hellenic dreams
 Set yonder splendour by the morning streams !
 No god who glimmers in a doubtful sphere
 Shed glory there—created beauty here !
 This is the city that our fathers framed—
 These are the crescents by the elders named !
 The human hands of strong, heroic men
 Broke down the mountain, filled the gaping glen,
 Ran streets through swamp, built banks against the
 foam,

And bent the arch and raised the lordly dome !
 Here are the towers that the founders made !
 Here are the temples where these Romans prayed !
 Here stand the courts in which their leaders met !
 Here are their homes, and here their altars yet !
 Here sleep the grand old men whose lives sublime
 Of thought and action shine and sound through
 time !

Who worked in darkness—onward fought their ways
 To bring about these large majestic days—
 Who left their sons the hearts and high desires
 Which built this city of the hundred spires !

A stately Morning rises on the wing,
 The hills take colour, and the valleys sing:
 A strong September flames beyond the lea—
 A silver vision on a silver sea:

A new Age, "cast in a diviner mould,"
Comes crowned with lustre, zoned and shod with
gold !

What dream is this on lawny spaces set ?

What miracle of dome and minaret ?

What great mute majesty is this that takes

The first of morning ere the song-bird wakes ?

Lo, this was built, to honour gathering lands,

By Celtic, Saxon, Australasian hands !

These are the halls where all the flags unfurled

Break into speech that welcomes all the world.

And lo, our friends are here from every zone—

From isles we dream of and from tracts unknown !

Here are the fathers from the stately space

Where Ireland is and England's sacred face !

Here are the Norsemen from their strong sea-wall,

The grave, grand Teuton and the brilliant Gaul !

From green, sweet groves the dark-eyed Lusians
sail,

And proud Iberia leaves the grape-flushed vale.

Here are the lords whose starry banner shines

From fierce Magellan to the Arctic pines.

Here come the strangers from the gates of day—

From hills of sunrise and from white Cathay.

The spicy islands send their swarthy sons,

The lofty North its mailed and mighty ones.

Venetian keels are floating on our sea ;

Our eyes are glad with radiant Italy !

Yea, north and south, and glowing west and east,

Are gathering here to grace our splendid feast !

The chiefs from peaks august with Asian snow,
The elders born where regal roses grow,
Come hither, with the flower of that fair land
That blooms beyond the fiery tracts of sand
Where Syrian suns their angry lustres fling
Across blind channels of the bygone spring.
And, on this great, auspicious day, the flowers
Of labour glorify majestic hours.
The singing angel from the starry sphere
Of dazzling Science shows his wonders here ;
And Art, the dream-clad spirit, starts, and brings
From Fairyland her strange, sweet, glittering things.
Here are the works man did, what time his face
Was touched by God in some exalted place ;
Here glows the splendour—here the marvel wrought
When Heaven flashed upon the maker's thought !
Yea, here are all the miracles sublime—
The lights of Genius and the stars of Time !
And, being lifted by this noble noon,
Australia broadens like a tropic moon:
Her white, pure lustre beams across the zones ;
The nations greet her from their awful thrones:
From hence the morning beauty of her name
Will shine afar, like an exceeding flame.
Her place will be with mighty lords, whose sway
Controls the thunder and the marching day :
Her crown will shine beside the crowns of kings
Who shape the seasons, rule the course of things:
The fame of her across the years to be
Will spread like light on a surpassing sea ;

And graced with glory; girt with power august,
Her life will last till all things turn to dust:

To Thee the face of song is lifted now,
O Lord! to whom the awful mountains bow:
Whose hands, unseen, the tenfold storms control;
Whose thunders shake the spheres from pole to pole;
Who from Thy highest heaven lookest down,
The sea Thy footstool, and the sun Thy crown;
Around whose throne the deathless planets sing
Hosannas to their high, eternal King—
To Thee the soul of prayer this morning turns,
With faith that glitters, and with hope that burns!
And, in the moments of majestic calm
That fill the heart in pauses of the psalm,
She asks Thy blessing for this fair young land
That flowers within the hollow of Thine hand!
She seeks of Thee that boon, that gift sublime,
The Christian radiance, for this hope of Time!
And Thou wilt listen! and Thy face will bend
To smile upon us—Master, Father, Friend!
The Christ to whom pure pleading heart hath crept
Was human once, and in the darkness wept;
The gracious love that helped us long ago
Will on us like a summer sunrise flow,
And be a light to guide the nation's feet
On holy paths—on sacred ways and sweet.

THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

[*Written for Music.*]

I

BROTHERS from far-away lands,
Sons of the fathers of fame,
Here are our hearts and our hands—
This is our song of acclaim.
Lords from magnificent zones,
Shores of superlative sway,
Awful with lustre of thrones,
This is our greeting to-day:
Europe and Asia are here—
Shining they enter our ports!
She that is half of the sphere
Beams like a sun in our courts:
Children of elders whose day
Shone to the planet's white ends,
Meet, in the noble old way,
Sons of your forefathers' friends:

II

Dressed is the beautiful city—the spires of it
 Burn in the firmament stately and still ;
 Forest has vanished—the wood, and the lyres of it,
 Lutes of the sea-wind, and harps of the hill:
 This is the region, and here is the bay by it,
 Collins, the deathless, beheld in a dream :
 Flinders and Fawkner, our forefathers grey, by it
 Paused in the hush of a season supreme:
 Here, on the waters of majesty near to us,
 Lingered the leaders by towers of flame :
 Elders who turn from the lordly old year to us
 Crowned with the lights of ineffable fame:

III

Nine and seventy years ago,
 Up the blaze of yonder bay,
 On a great exalted day,
 Came from seas august with snow—
 Waters where the whirlwinds blow—
 First of England's sons who stood
 By the deep green bygone wood
 Where the wild song used to flow
 Nine and seventy years ago:

Five and forty years ago,
 On a grand auspicious morn
 When the South Wind blew his horn,
 Where the splendid mountains glow—
 Peaks that God and Sunrise know—

Came the fearless, famous band,
 Founders of our radiant land,
 From the lawns where roses grow,
 Five and forty years ago.

IV

By gracious slopes of fair green hills,
 In shadows cool and deep,
 Where floats the psalm of many rills,
 The noble elders sleep.
 But while their children's children last,
 While seed from seedling springs,
 The print and perfume of their past
 Will be as deathless things.

Their voices are with vanished years,
 With other days and hours ;
 Their homes are sanctified by tears—
 They sleep amongst the flowers.
 They do not walk by street or stream,
 Or tread by grove or shore,
 But, in the nation's highest dream,
 They shine for evermore.

V

By lawny slope and lucent strand
 Are singing flags of every land ;
 On streams of splendour—bays impearled—
 The keels are here of all the world.
 With lutes of light and cymbals clear
 We waft goodwill to every sphere:

The links of love to-day are thrown
From sea to sea—from zone to zone ;
And, lo ! we greet, in glory drest,
The lords that come from east and west,
And march like noble children forth
To meet our fathers from the North !

VI

To Thee be the glory, All-Bountiful Giver !

The song that we sing is an anthem to Thee,
Whose blessing is shed on Thy people for ever,

Whose love is like beautiful light on the sea.

Behold, with high sense of Thy mercy unsleeping,

We come to Thee, kneel to Thee, praise Thee, and
pray,

O Lord, in whose hand is the strength that is keeping
The storm from the wave and the night from the
day !

ON A SPANISH CATHEDRAL¹

DEEP under the spires of a hill, by the feet of
the thunder-cloud trod,

I pause in a luminous, still, magnificent temple of
God!

At the steps of the altar august—a vision of angels
in stone—

I kneel, with my head to the dust, on the floors by
the seraphim known:

No father in Jesus is near, with the high, the com-
passionate face,

But the glory of Godhead is here—its presence trans-
figures the place!

Behold, in this beautiful fane, with the lights of blue
heaven impearled,

I think of the Elders of Spain, in the deserts—the
wilds of the world!

I think of the wanderers poor who knelt on the
flints and the sands,

When the mighty and merciless Moor was lord of
the Lady of Lands:

¹ Every happy expression in these stanzas may fairly be
claimed by the Hon. W. B. Dalley (*Author's note*).

Where the African scimitar flamed, with a swift,
 bitter death in its kiss,
 The fathers, unknown and unnamed, found God in
 cathedrals like this !
 The glow of the Spirit—the beam of His blessing—
 made lords of the men
 Whose food was the herb of the stream, whose roof
 was the dome of the den:
 And, far in the hills by the sea, these awful hiero-
 phants prayed
 For Rome and its temples to be—in a temple by
 Deity made.

Who knows of their faith—of its power ? Perhaps,
 with the light in their eyes,
 They saw, in some wonderful hour, the marvel of
 centuries rise !
 Perhaps in some moment supreme, when the moun-
 tains were holy and still,
 They dreamed the magnificent dream that came to
 the monks of Seville !
 Surrounded by pillars and spires whose summits
 shone out in the glare
 Of the high, the omnipotent fires, who knows what
 was seen by them there ?
 Be sure, if they saw, in the noon of their faith, some
 ineffable fane,
 They looked on the church like a moon dropped
 down by the Lord into Spain:

And the Elders who shone in the time when Christ
 over Christendom beamed
 May have dreamed at their altars sublime the dream
 that their fathers had dreamed,
 By the glory of Italy moved—the majesty shining in
 Rome—
 They turned to the land that they loved, and prayed
 for a church in their home ;
 And a soul of unspeakable fire descended on them,
 and they fought
 And laboured a life for the spire and tower and dome
 of their thought !
 These grew under blessing and praise, as morning in
 summertime grows—
 As Troy in the dawn of the days to the music of
 Delphicus rose:

In a land of bewildering light, where the feet of the
 season are Spring's,
 They worked in the day and the night, surrounded
 by beautiful things.
 The wonderful blossoms in stone—the flower and
 leaf of the Moor,
 On column and cupola shone, and gleamed on the
 glimmering floor:
 In a splendour of colour and form, from the mar-
 vellous African's hands
 Yet vivid and shining and warm, they planted the
 Flower of Lands.

Inspired by the patience supreme of the mute, the
magnificent past,
They toiled till the dome of their dream in the
firmament blossomed at last !

Just think of these men—of their time—of the days
of their deed, and the scene !
How touching their zeal—how sublime their sup-
pression of self must have been !
In a city yet hacked by the sword and scarred by
the flame of the Moor,
They started the work of their Lord, sad, silent,
and solemnly poor:
These fathers, how little they thought of themselves,
and how much of the days
When the children of men would be brought to
pray in their temple, and praise !
Ah ! full of the radiant, still, heroic old life that
has flown,
The merciful monks of Seville toiled on, and died
bare and unknown.

The music, the colour, the gleam, of their mighty
cathedral will be
Hereafter a luminous dream of the heaven I never
may see ;
To a spirit that suffers and seeks for the calm of a
competent creed,

This temple, whose majesty speaks, becomes a
religion indeed ;
The passionate lights—the intense, the ineffable
beauty of sound,
Go straight to the heart through the sense, as a song
would of seraphim crowned.
And lo ! by these altars august, the life that is highest
we live,
And are filled with the infinite trust and the peace
that the world cannot give.

They have passed, have the elders of time ; they
have gone, but the work of their hands,
Pre-eminent, peerless, sublime, like a type of eternity
stands !

They are mute, are the fathers who made this
church in the century dim ;
But the dome with their beauty arrayed remains, a
perpetual hymn.

Their names are unknown ; but so long as the humble
in spirit and pure
Are worshipped in speech and in song, our love for
these monks will endure ;
And the lesson by sacrifice taught will live in the
light of the years
With a reverence not to be bought, and a tenderness
deeper than tears.

ROVER

NO classic warrior tempts my pen
To fill with verse these pages—
No lordly-hearted man of men
My Muse's thoughts engages.

Let others choose the mighty dead,
And sing their battles over !
My champion, too, has fought and bled—
My theme is one-eyed Rover.

A grave old dog, with tattered ears
Too sore to cock up, reader—
A four-legged hero, full of years,
But sturdy as a cedar.

Still age is age ; and if my rhyme
Is dashed with words pathetic,
Don't wonder, friend ; I've seen the time
When Rove was more athletic.

He lies coiled up before me now,
A comfortable crescent:
His night-black nose and grizzled brow
Fixed in a fashion pleasant:

But ever and anon he lifts
The one good eye I mention,
And tries a thousand doggish shifts
To rivet my attention.

Just let me name his name, and up
You'll see him start, and patter
Towards me, like a six-months' pup
In point of speed, but fatter.

He pokes his head upon my lap,
Nor heeds the whip above him ;
Because he knows, the dear old chap,
His human friends all love him.

Our younger dogs cut off from hence
At sight of lash uplifted ;
But Rove, with grand indifference,
Remains, and can't be shifted.

And, ah ! the set upon his phiz
At meals defies expression ;
For I confess that Rover is
A cadger by profession.

The lesser favourites of the place
At dinner keep their distance ;
But by my chair one grizzled face
Begs on with brave persistence:

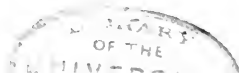
His jaws present a toothless sight,
But still my hearty hero
Can satisfy an appetite
Which brings a bone to zero:

And while Spot barks and pussy mews,
To move the cook's compassion,
He takes his after-dinner snooze
In genuine biped fashion:

In fact, in this, our ancient pet
So hits off human nature
That I at times almost forget
He's but a dog in feature:

Between his tail and bright old eye
The swift communications
Outstrip the messages which fly
From telegraphic stations.

And, ah ! that tail's rich eloquence
Conveys too clear a moral,
For men who have a grain of sense
About its drift to quarrel.



At night, his voice is only heard
When it is wanted badly ;
For Rover is too cute a bird
To follow shadows madly:

The pup and Carlo in the dark
Will start at crickets chirring ;
But when we hear the old dog bark
We know there's *something* stirring:

He knows a gun, does Rover here ;
And if I cock a trigger,
He makes himself from tail to ear
An admirable figure:

For, once the fowling piece is out,
And game is on the *tapis*,
The set upon my hero's snout
Would make a cockle happy.

And as for horses, why, betwixt
Our chestnut mare and Rover
The mutual friendship is as fixed
As any love of lover:

And when his master's hand resigns
The bridle for the paddle,
His dogship on the grass reclines,
And stays and minds the saddle:

Of other friends he has no lack ;
Grey pussy is his crony,
And kittens mount upon his back,
As youngsters mount a pony:

They talk of man's superior sense,
And charge the few with treason
Who think a dog's intelligence
Is very like our reason:

But though Philosophy has tried
A score of definitions,
'Twixt man and dog it can't decide
The relative positions:

And I believe upon the whole
(Though you my creed deny, sir),
That Rove's entitled to a soul
As much as you or I, sir:

Indeed, I fail to see the force
Of your derisive laughter
Because I will not say my horse
Has not some horse-hereafter.

A fig for dogmas—let them pass !
There's much in life to grieve us ;
And what most grieves is *this*, alas !
That all our best friends leave us.

ROVER

And when I sip my nightly grog,
And watch old Rover blinking,
This royal ruin of a dog
Calls forth some serious thinking.

For, though he's lightly touched by Fate,
I cannot help remarking
The step of age is in his gait,
Its hoarseness in his barking.

He still goes on his rounds at night
To keep off forest prowlers !
But, ah ! he has no teeth to bite
The cunning-hearted howlers.

Not like the Rover that, erewhile,
Gave droves of dingoes battle,
And dashed through flood and fierce defile—
The friend, but dread, of cattle !

Not like to him that, in past years,
Won fight by fight, and scattered
Whole tribes of dogs with rags of ears
And tail-ends torn and tattered !

But while time tells upon our pet,
And makes him greyer daily,
He is a noble fellow yet,
And wears his old age gaily.

Still, dogs must die ; and in the end,
When he is past caressing,
We'll mourn him like some human friend
Whose presence was a blessing:

Till then, be bread and peace his lot—
A life of calm and clover !
The pup may sleep outside with Spot—
We'll keep the nook for Rover:

BY THE CLIFFS OF THE SEA

[*In Memory of Samuel Bennett.*]

I N a far-away glen of the hills,
Where the bird of the night is at rest,
Shut in from the thunder that fills
The fog-hidden caves of the west—
In a sound of the leaf, and the lute
Of the wind on the quiet lagoon,
I stand, like a worshipper, mute
In the flow of a marvellous tune !
And the song that is sweet to my sense
Is, " Nearer, my God, unto Thee ; "
But it carries me sorrowing hence,
To a grave by the cliffs of the sea:

So many have gone that I loved—
So few of the fathers remain,
That where in old seasons I moved
I could never be happy again.
In the breaks of this beautiful psalm,
With its deep, its devotional tone,
And hints of ineffable calm,
I feel like a stranger, alone.

No wonder my eyes are so dim—
 Your trouble is heavy on me,
 O widow and daughter of him
 Who sleeps in the grave by the sea !

The years have been hard that have pressed
 On a head full of premature grey,
 Since Stenhouse went down to his rest,
 And Harpur was taken away:
 In the soft yellow evening-ends,
 The wind of the water is faint
 By the home of the last of my friends—
 The shrine of the father and saint:
 The tenderness touching—the grace
 Of Ridley no more is for me ;
 And flowers have hidden the face
 Of the brother who sleeps by the sea.

The vehement voice of the South
 Is loud where the journalist lies ;
 But calm hath encompassed his mouth,
 And sweet is the peace in his eyes:
 Called hence by the Power who knows
 When the work of a hero is done,
 He turned at the message, and rose
 With the harness of diligence on.
 In the midst of magnificent toil,
 He bowed at the holy decree ;
 And green is the grass on the soil
 Of the grave by the cliffs of the sea.

I knew him, indeed ; and I knew,
 Having suffered so much in his day,
 What a beautiful nature and true
 In Bennett was hidden away.
 In the folds of a shame without end,
 When the lips of the scorner were curled,
 I found in this brother a friend—
 The last that was left in the world:
 Ah ! under the surface austere
 Compassion was native to thee ;
 I send from my solitude here
 This rose for the grave by the sea:

To the high, the heroic intent
 Of a life that was never at rest,
 He held, with a courage unspent,
 Through the worst of his days and the best:
 Far back in the years that are dead
 He knew of the bitterness cold
 That saddens with silver the head
 And makes a man suddenly old:
 The dignity gracing his grief
 Was ever a lesson to me ;
 He lies under blossom and leaf
 In a grave by the cliffs of the sea:

Above him the wandering face
 Of the moon is a loveliness now,
 And anthems encompass the place
 From lutes of the luminous bough.

The forelands are fiery with foam
Where often and often he roved ;
He sleeps in the sight of the home
That he built by the waters he loved.
The wave is his fellow at night,
And the sun, shining over the lea,
Sheds out an unspeakable light
On this grave by the cliffs of the sea:

GALATEA

A SILVER slope, a fall of firs, a ledge of gleaming
grasses,
And fiery cones, and sultry spurs, and swarthy pits
and passes !

* * * * *

The long-haired Cyclops bated breath, and bit his
lip and hearkened,
And dug and dragged the stone of death, by ways
that dipped and darkened:

Across a tract of furnaced flints there came a wind
of water,
From yellow banks with tender hints of Tethys
white-armed daughter.

She sat amongst wild singing weeds, by beds of
myrrh and moly ;
And Acis made a flute of reeds, and drew its accents
slowly ;

And taught its spirit subtle sounds that leapt beyond
suppression,
And paused and panted on the bounds of fierce and
fitful passion:

Then he who shaped the cunning tune, by keen
desire made bolder,
Fell fainting, like a fervent noon; upon the sea-
nymph's shoulder:

Sicilian suns had laid a dower of light and life about
her:
Her beauty was a gracious flower—the heart fell
dead without her:

“ Ah, Galatê,” said Polypheme, “ I would that I
could find thee
Some finest tone of hill or stream, wherewith to lull
and bind thee !

“ What lyre is left of marvellous range, whose subtle
strings, containing
Some note supreme, might catch and change, or set
thy passion waning ?—

“ Thy passion for the fair-haired youth whose fleet
light feet perplex me
By ledges rude, on paths uncouth, and broken
ways that vex me ?

“Ah, turn to me! else violent sleep shall track
the cunning lover;
And thou wilt wait and thou wilt weep when I his
haunts discover.”

But golden Galatea laughed, and Thôsa's son, like
thunder,
Brake through a rifted rannel shaft, and dashed its
rocks asunder,

And poised the bulk, and hurled the stone, and
crushed the hidden Acis,
And struck with sorrow drear and lone the sweetest
of all faces:

To Zeus, the mighty Father, she, with plaint and
prayer, departed:
Then from fierce Ætna to the sea a fountained water
started—

A lucent stream of lutes and lights—cool haunt of
flower and feather,
Whose silver days and yellow nights made years of
hallowed weather.

Here Galatea used to come, and rest beside the
river;
Because, in faint, salt, blowing foam, her shepherd
lived for ever.

AFTER MANY YEARS

THE song that once I dreamed about,
The tender, touching thing,
As radiant as the rose without;
The love of wind and wing :
The perfect verses, to the tune
Of woodland music set,
As beautiful as afternoon,
Remain unwritten yet:

It is too late to write them now—
The ancient fire is cold ;
No ardent lights illumine the brow,
As in the days of old:
I cannot dream the dream again ;
But, when the happy birds
Are singing in the sunny rain,
I think I hear its words.

I think I hear the echo still
Of long-forgotten tones,
When evening winds are on the hill
And sunset fires the cones ;
But only in the hours supreme,
With songs of land and sea,
The lyrics of the leaf and stream,
This echo comes to me:

No longer doth the earth reveal
Her gracious green and gold ;
I sit where youth was once, and feel
That I am growing old:
The lustre from the face of things
Is wearing all away ;
Like one who halts with tired wings,
I rest and muse to-day:

There is a river in the range
I love to think about ;
Perhaps the searching feet of change
Have never found it out:
Ah ! oftentimes I used to look
Upon its banks, and long
To steal the beauty of that brook
And put it in a song:

I wonder if the slopes of moss,
In dreams so dear to me—
The falls of flower, and flower-like floss—
Are as they used to be !
I wonder if the waterfalls,
The singers far and fair,
That gleamed between the wet, green walls,
Are still the marvels there !

Ah ! let me hope that in that place
Those old familiar things
To which I turn a wistful face
Have never taken wings.
Let me retain the fancy still
That, past the lordly range,
There always shines, in folds of hill,
One spot secure from change !

I trust that yet the tender screen
That shades a certain nook,
Remains, with all its gold and green,
The glory of the brook:
It hides a secret to the birds
And waters only known :
The letters of two lovely words—
A poem on a stone.

Perhaps the lady of the past /
Upon these lines may light,
The purest verses, and the last,
That I may ever write:
She need not fear a word of blame :
Her tale the flowers keep—
The wind that heard me breathe her name
Has been for years asleep.

But in the night, and when the rain
The troubled torrent fills,
I often think I see again
The river in the hills ;
And when the day is very near,
And birds are on the wing,
My spirit fancies it can hear
The song I cannot sing:

LILITH

STRANGE is the song, and the soul that is
singing

Falters, because of the vision it sees ;
Voice that is not of the living is ringing,
Down in the depths where the darkness is clinging,
Even when Noon is the lord of the leas,
Fast, like a curse, to the ghosts of the trees !

Here is a mist that is parted in sunder,
Half with the darkness and half with the day ;
Face of a woman, but face of a wonder,
Vivid and wild as a flame of the thunder,
Flashes and fades, and the wail of the grey
Water is loud on the straits of the bay !

Father, whose years have been many and weary—
Elder, whose life is as lovely as light
Shining in ways that are sterile and dreary—
Tell me the name of the beautiful peri,
Flashing on me like the wonderful white
Star, at the meeting of morning and night.

Look to thy Saviour, and down on thy knee, man,
 Lean on the Lord, as the Zebedee leaned ;
 Daughter of hell is the neighbour of thee, man—
 Lilith, of Adam the luminous leman !

Turn to the Christ to be succoured and screened,
 Saved from the eyes of a marvellous fiend !

Serpent she is in the shape of a woman,
 Brighter than woman, ineffably fair !
 Shelter thyself from the splendour, and sue, man ;
 Light that was never a loveliness human
 Lives in the face of this sinister snare,
 Longing to strangle thy soul with her hair !

Lilith, who came to the father and bound him
 Fast with her eyes in the first of the spring ;
 Lilith she is, but remember she drowned him,
 Shedding her flood of gold tresses around him—
 Lulled him to sleep with the lyric she sings :
 Melody strange with unspeakable things !

Low is her voice, but beware of it ever,
 Swift bitter death is the fruit of delay ;
 Never was song of its beauty—ah ! never—
 Heard on the mountain, or meadow, or river,
 Not of the night is it, not of the day—
 Fly from it, stranger, away and away.

Back on the hills are the blossom and feather,
Glory of noon is on valley and spire ;
Here is the grace of magnificent weather,
Where is the woman from gulfs of the nether ?
Where is the fiend with the face of desire ?
Gone, with a cry, in miraculous fire !

Sound that was not of the world, or the spacious
Splendid blue heaven, has passed from the lea ;
Dead is the voice of the devil audacious :
Only a dream is her music fallacious,
Here, in the song and the shadow of tree,
Down by the green and the gold of the sea.

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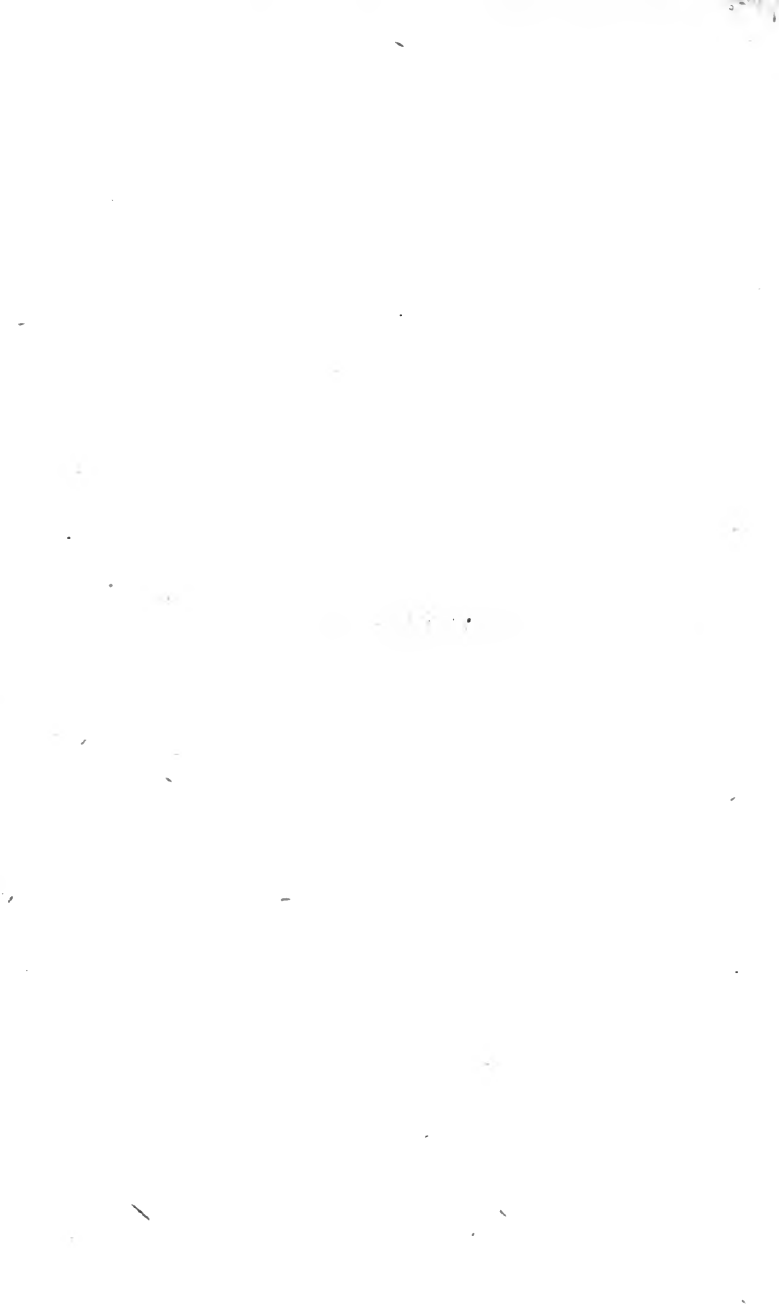
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EARLY POEMS



THE MUSE OF AUSTRALIA

WHERE the pines with the eagles are nestled
in rifts,

And the torrent leaps down to the surges,
I have followed her, clambering over the cliffs,
By the chasms and moon-haunted verges.
I know she is fair as the angels are fair,
For have I not caught a faint glimpse of her there ;
A glimpse of her face, and her glittering hair,
And a hand with the Harp of Australia ?

I never can reach you, to hear the sweet voice
So full with the music of fountains !
Oh ! when will you meet with that soul of your
choice,
Who will lead you down here from the moun-
tains ?

A lyre-bird lit on a shimmering space ;
It dazzled mine eyes and I turned from the place,
And wept in the dark for a glorious face,
And a hand with the Harp of Australia !

THE FATE OF THE EXPLORERS

SET your face toward the darkness — tell of
deserts weird and wide,
Where unshaken woods are huddled, and low languid
waters glide ;
Turn and tell of deserts lonely, lying pathless, deep
and vast,
Where in utter silence ever Time seems slowly
breathing past—
Silence only broken when the sun is flecked with
cloudy bars,
Or when tropic squalls come hurtling underneath
the sultry stars !
Deserts thorny, hot, and thirsty, where the feet of
men are strange,
And eternal Nature sleeps in solitudes which know
no change.
Weakened with their lengthened labours, past long
plains of stone and sand,
Down those trackless wilds they wandered, travel-
lers from a far-off land,

Seeking now to join their brothers, struggling on
 with faltering feet,
 For a glorious work was finished, and a noble task
 complete ;
 And they dreamt of welcome faces—dreamt that
 soon unto their ears
 Friendly greetings would be thronging, with a
 nation's well-earned cheers ;
 Since their courage never failed them, but with high,
 unflinching soul
 Each was pressing forward, hoping, trusting all
 should reach the goal.

* * * * *

Though he rallied in the morning, long before the
 close of day
 He had sunk, the worn-out hero, fainting, dying by
 the way !
 But with Death he wrestled hardly ; three times
 rising from the sod,
 Yet a little further onward o'er the weary waste he
 trod.
 Facing fate with heart undaunted, still the chief
 would totter on
 Till the evening closed about him—till the strength
 to move was gone ;
 Then he penned his latest writing, and, before the
 life was spent,
 Gave the records to his comrade—gave the watch
 he said was lent—

Gave them with his last commandments, charging
 him that night to stay
 And to let him lie unburied when the soul had
 passed away.

Through that night he uttered little, rambling were
 the words he spoke :

And he turned, and died in silence, when the tardy
 morning broke.

Many memories come together whilst in sight of
 death we dwell,

Much of sweet and sad reflection through the weary
 mind must well.

As those long hours glided past him, till the east
 with light was fraught,

Who may know the mournful secret—who can tell
 us what he thought ?

Very lone and very wretched was the brave man
 left behind,

Wandering over leagues of waste-land, seeking,
 hoping help to find ;

Sleeping in deserted wurleys, fearful many night-
 falls through

Lest unfriendly hands should rob him of his hoard
 of wild nardoo.

Ere he reached their old encampment—ere the well-
 know spot he gained,
 Something nerved him—something whispered that
 his other chief remained.
 So he searched for food to give him, trusting they
 might both survive
 Till the aid so long expected from the cities should
 arrive ;
 So he searched for food and took it to the gunyah
 where he found
 Silence broken by his footfalls—death and darkness
 on the ground:

Weak and wearied with his journey, there the lone
 survivor stooped,
 And the disappointment bowed him and his heart
 with sadness drooped,
 And he rose and raked a hollow with his wasted,
 feeble hands,
 Where he took and hid the hero, in the rushes and
 the sands ;
 But he, like a brother, laid him out of reach of wind
 and rain,
 And for many days he sojourned near him on that
 wild-faced plain ;
 Whilst he stayed beside the ruin, whilst he lingered
 with the dead,
 Oh ! he must have sat in shadow gloomy as the
 tears he shed.

Where our noble Burke was lying—where his sad
 companion stood,
 Came the natives of the forest—came the wild men
 of the wood ;
 Down they looked, and saw the stranger—he who
 there in quiet slept—
 Down they knelt, and o'er the chieftain bitterly they
 moaned and wept :
 Bitterly they mourned to see him all uncovered to
 the blast—
 All uncovered to the tempest as it wailed and
 whistled past ;
 And they shrouded him with bushes, so in death
 that he might lie,
 Like a warrior of their nation, sheltered from the
 stormy sky.

* * * * *

Ye must rise and sing their praises, O ye bards with
 souls of fire,
 For the people's voice shall echo through the wail-
 ings of your lyre ;
 And we'll welcome back their comrade, though our
 eyes with tears be blind
 At the thoughts of promise perished, and the shadow
 left behind ;
 Now the leaves are bleaching round them—now the
 gales above them glide,
 But the end was all accomplished, and their fame
 is far and wide,

THE FATE OF THE EXPLORERS 269

Though this fadeless glory cannot hide a grateful
nation's grief,
And their laurels have been blended with a gloomy
cypress wreath.

Let them rest where they have laboured ! but, my
country, mourn and moan ;
We must build with human sorrow grander monu-
ments than stone.

Let them rest, for oh ! remember, that in long here-
after time

Sons of Science oft shall wander o'er that solitary
clime !

Cities bright shall rise about it, Age and Beauty
there shall stray,

And the fathers of the people, pointing to the
graves, shall say :

“ Here they fell, the glorious martyrs ! when these
plains were woodlands deep ;

Here a friend, a brother, laid them ; here the wild
men came to weep.”

KOOROORA

THE gums in the gully stand gloomy and stark,
A torrent beneath them is leaping,
And the wind goes about like a ghost in the dark
Where a chief of Wahibbi lies sleeping !
He dreams of a battle—of foes of the past,
But he hears not the whooping abroad on the blast,
Nor the fall of the feet that are travelling fast.
Oh, why dost thou slumber, Kooroora ?

They come o'er the hills in their terrible ire,
And speed by the woodlands and water ;
They look down the hills at the flickering fire,
All eager and thirsty for slaughter.
Lo ! the stormy moon glares like a torch from the
vale,
And a voice in the beela grows wild in its wail,
As the cries of the Wanneroos swell with the gale—
Oh ! rouse thee, and meet them, Kooroora.

He starts from his sleep, and he clutches his spear,
And the echoes roll backward in wonder,
For a shouting strikes into the hollow woods near,
Like the sound of a gathering thunder.
He clammers the ridge, with his face to the light,
The foes of Wahibbi come full in his sight—
The waters of Mooki will redden to-night.
Go! and glory awaits thee, Kooroora.

Lo! yeelamans splinter, and boomerangs clash,
And a spear in the darkness is driven—
It whizzes along like a wandering flash
From the heart of a hurricane riven:
They turn to the mountains, that gloomy-browed
band;
The rain droppeth down with a moan to the land,
And the face of a chieftain lies buried in sand—
Oh, the light that was quenched in Kooroora!

To-morrow the Wanneroo dogs will rejoice,
And feast in this desolate valley;
But where are his brothers—the friends of his
choice,
And why art thou absent, Ewalli?
Now silence draws back to the forest again,
And the wind, like a wayfarer, sleeps on the plain,
But the cheeks of a warrior bleach in the rain.
Oh! where are thy mourners, Kooroora?

KIAMA

TOWARDS the hills of Jamberoo
Some few fantastic shadows haste,
Uplit with fires,
Like castle spires
Outshining through a mirage waste.
Behold, a mournful glory sits
On feathered ferns and woven brakes,
Where sobbing wild like restless child
The gusty breeze of evening wakes !
Methinks I hear on every breath
A lofty tone go passing by
That whispers—" Weave,
Though wood winds grieve,
The fadeless blooms of Poesy ! "

A spirit hand has been abroad—
An evil hand to pluck the flowers—
A world of wealth,
And blooming health
Has gone from fragrant seaside bowers :
The twilight waxeth dim and dark,
The sad waves mutter sounds of woe,

But the evergreen retains its sheen,
 And happy hearts exist below.
 And pleasure sparkles on the sward,
 And voices utter words of bliss,
 And while my bride
 Sits by my side,
 Oh ! where's the scene surpassing this ?

Kiama slumbers robed in mist,
 All glittering in the dewy light,
 That brooding o'er
 The shingly shore,
 Lies resting in the arms of Night ;
 And foam-flecked crags with surges chill,
 And rocks embraced of cold-lipped spray,
 Are moaning loud where billows crowd
 In angry numbers up the bay.
 The holy stars come looking down
 On windy heights and swarthy strand,
 And Life and Love—
 The cliffs above—
 Are sitting fondly hand in hand.

I hear a music, inwardly,
 That floods my soul with thoughts of joy ;
 Within my heart
 Emotions start
 That Time may still but ne'er destroy.
 An ancient Spring revives itself,
 And days which made the past divine ;

And rich warm gleams from golden dreams,
All glorious in their summer shine ;
And songs of half forgotten hours,
And many a sweet melodious strain
Which still shall rise
Beneath the skies
When all things else have died again.

A white sail glimmers out at sea—
A vessel walking in her sleep ;
Some Power goes past
That bends the mast,
While frightened waves to leeward leap.
The moonshine veils the naked sand
And ripples upward with the tide,
As underground there rolls a sound
From where the caverned waters glide.
A face that bears affection's glow,
The soul that speaks from gentle eyes,
And joy which slips
From loving lips
Have made this spot my Paradise !

THE BARCOO

FROM the runs of the Narran, wide-dotted with
sheep,

And loud with the lowing of cattle,

We speed for a land where the strange forests sleep

And the hidden creeks bubble and prattle !

Now call on the horses, and leave the blind courses

And sources of rivers that all of us know ;

For, crossing the ridges, and passing the ledges,

And running up gorges, we'll come to the verges

Of gullies where waters eternally flow.

Oh ! the herds they will rush down the spurs of the
hill

To feed on the grasses so cool and so sweet ;

And I think that my life with delight will stand
still

When we halt with the pleasant Barcoo at our
feet.

Good-bye to the Barwan, and brigalow scrubs,

Adieu to the Culgoä ranges,

But look for the malga and salt-bitten shrubs,

Though the face of the forest-land changes.

The leagues we may travel down beds of hot gravel,
And clay-crusted reaches where moisture hath
been,

While searching for waters, may vex us or thwart
us,

Yet who would be quailing, or fainting or failing ?

Not you, who are men of the Narran, I ween !

When we leave the dry channels away to the south,

And reach the far plains we are journeying to,

We will cry, though our lips may be glued with the
drouth,

Hip, hip, and hurrah for the pleasant Barcoo !

FAINTING BY THE WAY

SWARTHY wastelands, wide and woodless, glittering miles and miles away,
Where the south wind seldom wanders, and the winters will not stay ;
Lurid wastelands, pent in silence, thick with hot and thirsty sighs,
Where the scanty thorn-leaves twinkle with their haggard, hopeless eyes ;
Furnaced wastelands, hunched with hillocks, like to stony billows rolled,
Where the naked flats lie swirling, like a sea of darkened gold ;
Burning wastelands, glancing upward with a weird and vacant stare,
Where the languid heavens quiver o'er red depths of stirless air !

“ Oh, my brother, I am weary of this 'wilderling waste of sand ;
In the noontide we can never travel to the promised land !

Lo, the desert broadens round us, glaring wildly in
 my face !
 With long leagues of sunflame on it,—oh ! the
 barren, barren place !
 See, behind us gleams a green plot, shall we thither
 turn and rest
 Till a cold wind flutters over, till the day is down
 the west ?
 I would follow, but I cannot ! Brother, let me here
 remain,
 For the heart is dead within me, and I may not rise
 again."

" Wherefore stay to talk of fainting ?—rouse thee
 for awhile, my friend ;
 Evening hurries on our footsteps, and the journey
 soon will end.
 Wherefore stay to talk of fainting, when the sun,
 with sinking fire,
 Smites the blocks of broken thunder, blackening
 yonder craggy spire ?
 Even now the far-off landscape broods and fills with
 coming change,
 And the withered moon grows brighter bending o'er
 that shadowed range ;
 At the feet of grassy summits sleeps a water calm
 and clear—
 There is surely rest beyond it ! Comrade, wherefore
 falter here ?

" Yet a little longer struggle ; we have walked a
 wilder plain,
 And have met more troubles, trust me, than we e'er
 shall meet again !
 Can you think of all the dangers you and I are
 living through
 With a soul so weak and fearful, with the doubts *I*
 never knew ?
 Dost thou not remember that the thorns are clus-
 tered with the rose,
 And that every Zin-like border may a pleasant land
 enclose ?
 Oh, across these sultry deserts many a fruitful scene
 we'll find,
 And the blooms we gather shall be worth the wounds
 they leave behind."

" Ah, my brother, it is useless ! See, o'erburdened
 with their load,
 All the friends who went before us fall or falter by
 the road !
 We have come a weary distance, seeking what we
 may not get,
 And I think we are but children, chasing rainbows
 through the wet:
 Tell me not of vernal valleys ! Is it well to hold a
 reed
 Out for drowning men to clutch at in the moments
 of their need ?

Go thy journey on without me ; it is better I should
stay,
Since my life is like an evening, fading, swooning
fast away !

“ Where are all the springs you talked of ? Have
I not with pleading mouth
Looked to Heaven through a silence stifled in the
crimson drouth ?
Have I not, with lips unsated, watched to see the
fountains burst,
Where I searched the rocks for cisterns ? And they
only mocked my thirst !
Oh, I dreamt of countries fertile, bright with lakes
and flashing rills
Leaping from their shady caverns, streaming round
a thousand hills !
Leave me, brother, all is fruitless, barren, measure-
less, and dry,
And my God will *never* help me, though I pray, and
faint, and die.”

“ Up ! I tell thee this is idle ! Oh, thou man of
little faith !
Doubting on the verge of Aidenn, turning now to
covet death !
By the fervent hopes within me, by the strength
which nerves my soul,
By the heart that yearns to help thee, we shall live
and reach the goal !

Rise and lean thy weight upon me. Life is fair,
 and God is just,
 And He yet will show us fountains, if we only look
 and trust !
 Oh, I know it, and He leads us to the glens of stream
 and shade,
 Where the low sweet waters gurgle round the banks
 which cannot fade."

Thus he spake, my friend and brother ! and he took
 me by the hand,
 And I think we walked the desert till the night was
 on the land ;
 Then we came to flowery hollows, where we heard
 a far-off stream
 Singing in the moony twilight, like the rivers of my
 dream.
 And the balmy winds came tripping softly through
 the pleasant trees,
 And I thought they bore a murmur like a voice
 from sleeping seas.
 So we travelled, so we reached it, and I never more
 will part
 With the peace, as calm as sunset, folded round my
 weary heart.

THE OLD YEAR

IT passed like the breath of the night-wind away,
It fled like a mist at the dawn of the day ;
It lasted its moment, then backward was hurled,
Another increase to the age of the world.

It passed with its shadows, its smiles and its tears,
It passed as a stream to the ocean of years ;
Years that were coming—were here—and are o'er,
The ages departed to visit no more.

It passed, but the bark on its billowy track
Leaves an impression on waters aback :
The glow of the gloaming remains on the sky,
Unwilling to leave us—unwilling to die.

It fled ; but away and away in its wake
There lingers a something that time cannot break.
The past and the future are joined by a chain,
And memories live that must ever remain.

EVENING HYMN

THE crag-pent ridges sob and moan, where
hidden waters glide ;

And twilight wanders round the earth with slow and
shadowy stride.

The gleaming clouds, above the brows of western
steeps uphurled,

Look like the spires of some fair town that bound
a brighter world.

So, from the depths of yonder wood, where many a
blind creek strays,

The pure Australian moon comes forth, enwreathed
in silver haze.

The rainy mists are trooping down the folding hills
behind,

And distant torrent-voices rise like bells upon the
wind.

The echeu's songs are dying, with the flute-bird's
mellow tone,

And night recalls the gloomy owl to roam the woods
alone.

Night, holy night! in robes of blue, with golden
stars encrowned,

Ascending mountains like to walls that hem an
Eden round.

Oh, lovely moon! oh, holy night! how good your
God must be,

That, through the glory of your height, He stoops
to look on me!

Oh, glittering clouds and silvery shapes, that vanish
one by one!

Is not the kindness of our Lord too great to think
upon?

If human song could flow as free as His created
breeze,

When, sloping from some hoary height, it sweeps
the vacant seas,

Then should my voice to heaven ascend, my tune-
ful lyre be strung,

And music sweeter than the winds should roam
these glens among.

Go by, ye golden-footed hours, to your mysterious
bourne,

And hide the sins ye bear from hence, so that they
ne'er return.

Teach me, ye beauteous stars, to kiss kind Mercy's
chastening rod,

And, looking up from Nature's face, to worship
Nature's God.

GERALDINE

MY head is filled with olden rhymes, beside
this moaning sea,

But many and many a day has gone since I was
dear to thee !

I know my passion fades away, and therefore oft
regret

That some who love indeed can part and in the years
forget.

Ah ! through the twilights when we stood the wattle-
trees between,

We did not dream of such a time as this, fair
Geraldine.

I do not say that all has gone of passion and of pain ;
I yearn for many happy thoughts I shall not think
again !

And often when the wind is up, and wailing round
the eaves,

You sigh for withered Purpose shred and scattered
like the leaves,

The Purpose blooming when we met each other on
the green ;

The sunset heavy in your curls, my golden Geraldine.

I think we lived a loftier life through hours of Long
Ago,
For in the largened evening earth our spirits seemed
to grow.
But that has passed, and here I stand, upon a
lonely place,
While Night is stealing round the land, like Time
across my face;
But I can calmly recollect our shadowy parting
scene,
And swooning thoughts that had no voice—no
utterance, Geraldine.

THE BALLAD OF TANNA

SHE knelt by the dead, in her passionate grief,
 Beneath a weird forest of Tanna ;
She kissed the stern brow of her father and chief,
 And cursed the dark race of Alkana.
With faces as wild as the clouds in the rain,
The sons of Kerrara came down to the plain,
And spoke to the mourner and buried the slain.
 Oh, the glory that died with Deloya !

“ Wahina,” they whispered, “ Alkana lies low,
 And the ghost of thy sire hath been gladdened,
For the men of his people have fought with the foe
 Till the rivers of Warra are reddened ! ”
She lifted her eyes to the glimmering hill,
Then spoke, with a voice like a musical rill,
“ The time is too short ; can I sojourn here still ? ”
 Oh, the Youth that was sad for Deloya !

“ Wahina, why linger,” Annatanam said,
 “ When the tent of a chieftain is lonely ?
There are others who grieve for the light that has
 fled,
 But one who exists for you only ! ”

“Go—leave me!” she cried. “I would fain be
alone ;
I must stay where the trees and the wild waters
moan ;
For my heart is as cold as a wave-beaten stone.”
Oh, the Beauty that mourned for Deloya !

“Wahina, why weep o'er a handful of dust,
When the souls of the brave are approaching ?
Oh ! look to the fires that are lit for the just,
And the mighty who sleep in Arrochin !”
But she turned from the glare of the flame-smitten
sea,
And a cry, like a whirlwind, came over the lea—
“Away to the mountains and leave her with me !”
Oh, the heart that was broke for Deloya !

LURLINE

[Inscribed to Madame Lucy Escott, Singer.]

AS you glided and glided before us that time,
A mystical magical maiden,
We fancied we looked on a face from the clime
Where the poets have builded their Aidenn !
And oh, the sweet shadows ! And oh, the warm
gleams
Which lay on the land of our beautiful dreams,
While we walked by the margins of musical streams
And heard your wild warbling around us !

We forgot what we were, when we stood with the
trees
Near the banks of those silvery waters ;
As ever in fragments they came on the breeze,
The songs of old Rhine and his daughters !
And then you would pass with those radiant eyes
Which flashed like a light in the tropical skies—
And ah ! the bright thoughts that would sparkle
and rise
When we heard your wild warbling around us.

Will you ever fly back to this city of ours,
With your harp and your voice and your beauty ?
God knows we rejoice when we meet with such
flowers,
On the hard road of Life and of Duty !
Oh ! come as you did, with that face and that tone,
For we wistfully look to the hours which have
flown,
And long for a glimpse of the gladness that shone
When we heard your wild warbling around us.

AT LONG BAY

1863.

FIVE years ago ! you cannot choose
But know the face of change,
Though July sleeps and spring renews
The gloss in gorge and range.

Five years ago ! I hardly know
How they have slipped away,
Since here we watched at ebb and flow
The waters of the Bay ;

And saw, with eyes of little faith,
From cambered summits fade
The Rainbow and the Rainbow wraith,
That *shadow* of a shade.

For Love and Youth were vexed with doubt,
Like ships on driving seas,
And in those days the heart gave out
Unthankful similes.

But let it be ! I've often said
His lot was hardly cast
Who never turned a happy head
To an unhappy Past—

Who never turned a face of light
To cares beyond recall :
He only fares in sorer plight
Who hath no Past at all !

So take my faith, and let it stand
Between us for a sign
That five bright years have known the land
Since yonder tumbled line

Of seacliff took our troubled talk—
The words at random thrown,
And Echo lived about this walk
Of gap and slimy stone:

Here first we learned the Love which leaves
No lack or loss behind,
The dark, sweet Love which woos the eyes
And haunts the morning wind,

And roves with runnels in the dell,
And houses by the wave
What time the storm hath struck the fell
And Terror fills the cave—

A Love, you know, that lives and lies
For moments past control,
And mellows through the Poet's eyes
And sweetens in his soul:

Here first we faced a briny breeze,
What time the middle gale
Went shrilling over whitened seas
With flying towers of sail:

And here we heard the plovers call
As shattered pauses came,
When Heaven showed a fiery wall
With sheets of wasted flame.

Here grebe and gull and heavy glede
Passed eastward far away,
The while the wind, with slackened speed,
Drooped with the dying Day.

And here our friendship, like a tree,
Perennial grew and grew,
Till you were glad to live for me,
And I to live for you.

THE OPOSSUM-HUNTERS

HEAR ye not the waters beating, where the
rapid rivers meeting

With the winds above them fleeting hurry to
the distant seas,

And a smothered sound of singing from old Ocean
upwards springing,

Sending hollow echoes ringing like a wailing on
the breeze ?

For the tempest, round us brewing, cometh with
the clouds pursuing,

And the bright Day like a ruin, crumbles from
the mournful trees:

When the thunder ceases pealing, and the stars up
heaven are stealing,

And the Moon above us wheeling throws her
pleasant glances round,

From our homes we boldly sally 'neath the trust-
ing tree to rally,

For a night-hunt up the valley, with our bro-
thers and the hound !

Through a wild-eyed Forest staring at the light
above it glaring,
We will travel, little caring for the dangers
where we bound:

Twisted boughs shall tremble o'er us, hollow woods
shall moan before us,
And the torrents like a chorus down the gorges
dark shall sing;
And the vines shall shake and shiver, and the
startled grasses quiver,
Like the reeds beside a river in the gusty days
of Spring;
While we forward haste delighted, through a region
seldom lighted—
Souls impatient, hearts excited — like a wind
upon the wing!

Oh! the solemn tones of Ocean, like the language of
devotion,
Or a voice of deep emotion, wander round the
evening scene.
Oh! the ragged shadows cluster where, my brothers,
we must muster
Ere the warm moon lends her lustre to the cedars
darkly green;
And the lights like flowers shall blossom, in high
Heaven's kindly bosom,
While we hunt the wild opossum, underneath its
leafy screen;

Underneath the woven bowers, where the gloomy
night-hawk cowers,

Through a lapse of dreamy hours, in a stirless
solitude !

And the hound—that close beside us still will stay
whate'er betide us—

Through a 'wilderer waste shall guide us—through
a maze where few intrude,

Till the game is chased to cover, till the stirring
sport is over,

Till we bound, each happy rover, homeward,
through the laughing wood.

Oh, the joy in wandering thither, when fond
friends are all together

And our souls are like the weather—cloudless,
clear, and fresh, and free !

Let the sailor sing the story of the ancient ocean's
glory,

Forests golden, mountains hoary — can he look
and love like we ?

Sordid worldling, haunt thy city with that heart
so hard and gritty !

There are those who turn with pity, when they
turn to think of thee !

OTHER POEMS



IN MEMORY OF EDWARD BUTLER

A VOICE of grave, deep emphasis
Is in the woods to-night ;
No sound of radiant day is this,
No cadence of the light.
Here, in the fall and flights of leaves
Against grey widths of sea,
The spirit of the forests grieves
For lost Persephone.

The fair divinity that roves
Where many waters sing
Doth miss her daughter of the groves—
The golden-headed spring:
She cannot find the shining hand
That once the rose caressed ;
There is no blossom on the land,
No bird in last year's nest.

Here, where this strange Demeter weeps—
 This large, sad life unseen—
 Where July's strong, wild torrent leaps
 The wet hill-heads between,
 I sit and listen to the grief,
 The high, supreme distress,
 Which sobs above the fallen leaf
 Like human tenderness !

Where sighs the sedge and moans the marsh,
 The hermit plover calls ;
 The voice of straitened streams is harsh
 By windy mountain walls ;
 There is no gleam upon the hills
 Of last October's wings ;
 The shining lady of the rills
 Is with forgotten things.

Now where the land's worn face is grey
 And storm is on the wave,
 What flower is left to bear away
 To Edward Butler's grave ?
 What tender rose of song is here
 That I may pluck and send
 Across the hills and seas austere
 To my lamented friend ?

There is no blossom left at all !
 But this white winter leaf,
 Whose glad green life is past recall,
 Is token of my grief ;
 Where love is tending growths of grace,
 The first-born of the spring,
 Perhaps there may be found a place
 For my pale offering.

For this heroic Irish heart,
 We miss so much to-day,
 Whose life was of our lives a part,
 What words have I to say ?
 Because I know the noble woe
 That shrinks beneath the touch—
 The pain of brothers stricken low—
 I will not say too much.

But often in the lonely space
 When night is on the land,
 I dream of a departed face—
 A gracious, vanished hand.
 And when the solemn waters roll
 Against the outer step,
 I see a great, benignant soul
 Beside me in my sleep.

Yea, while the frost is on the ways
 With barren banks austere,
 The friend I knew in other days
 Is often very near.
 I do not hear a single tone ;
 But where this brother gleams,
 The elders of the seasons flown
 Are with me in my dreams:

The saintly face of Stenhouse turns—
 His kind old eyes I see ;
 And Pell and Ridley from their urns
 Arise and look at me.
 By Butler's side the lights reveal
 The father of his fold,
 I start from sleep in tears, and feel
 That I am growing old.

Where Edward Butler sleeps the wave
 Is hardly ever heard ;
 But now the leaves above his grave,
 By August's songs are stirred:
 The slope beyond is green and still,
 And in my dreams I dream
 The hill is like an Irish hill
 Beside an Irish stream:

BLUE MOUNTAIN PIONEERS

THE dauntless three! for twenty days and
nights

These heroes battled with the haughty heights ;
For twenty spaces of the star and sun
These Romans kept their harness buckled on ;
By gaping gorges, and by cliffs austere,
These fathers struggled in the great old year ;
Their feet they set on strange hills scarred by fire,
Their strong arms forced a path through brake and
briar ;

They fought with Nature till they reached the
throne

Where morning glittered on the great UNKNOWN !
There, in a time with praise and prayer supreme,
Paused Blaxland, Lawson, Wentworth, in a dream ;
There, where the silver arrows of the day
Smote slope and spire, they halted on their way.
Behind them were the conquered hills—they faced
The vast green West, with glad, strange beauty
graced ;

And every tone of every cave and tree
Was as a voice of splendid prophecy.

INTAGLIO—FRANK DENZ

I N the roar of the storm, in the wild bitter voice
of the tempest-whipped sea,
The cry of my darling, my child, comes ever and
ever to me ;
And I stand where the haggard-faced wood stares
down on a sinister shore,
But all that is left is the hood of the babe I can
cherish no more.

A little blue hood, with the shawl of the girl that I
took for my wife,
In a happy old season, is all that remains of the
light of my life ;
The wail of a woman in pain, and the sob of a
smothering bird,
They come through the darkness again—in the wind
and the rain they are heard.

Oh, women and men who have known the perils of
weather and wave,
It is sad that my sweet ones are blown under sea
without shelter of grave ;
I sob like a child in the night, when the gale on the
waters is loud—
My darlings went down in my sight, with neither a
coffin nor shroud.

In the whistle of wind, and the whirl of ominous
fragments of wreck,
The wife, with her poor little girl, saw death on the
lee of the deck ;
But, sirs, she depended on me—she trusted my
comforting word ;
She is down in the depths of the sea—my love, with
her beautiful bird.

In the boat I was ordered to go—I was not more
afraid than the rest,
But a husband will falter, you know, with the love
of his life at his breast ;
My captain was angry a space, but soon he grew
tender in tone—
Perhaps there had flashed by his face a wife and a
child of his own.

I was weak for some moments, and cried ; but only
one hope was in life ;
The hood upon baby I tied—I fastened the shawl
on my wife.
The skipper took charge of the child—he stuck to
his word till the last ;
But only this hood on the wild, bitter shore of the
sea had been cast.

In the place of a coward, who shook like a leaf in
the quivering boat,
A seat on the rowlocks I took ; but the sea had me
soon by the throat,
The surge gripped me fast by the neck—in a ring,
and a roll, and a roar,
I was cast like a piece of the wreck, on a bleak,
beaten, shelterless shore.

And there were my darlings on board for the rest
of that terrible day,
And I watched and I prayed to the Lord, as never
before I could pray.
The windy hills stared at the black, heavy clouds
coming over the wave ;
My girl was expecting me back, but where was my
power to save ?

Ah! where was my power, when Death was glaring
at me from the reef?

I cried till I gasped for my breath, aloof with a
maddening grief.

We couldn't get back to the deck: I wanted to go;
but the sea

Dashed over the sides of the wreck, and carried my
darling from me:

Oh, girl that I took by the hand to the altar two
summers ago,

I would you were buried on land—my dear, it would
comfort me so!

I would you were sleeping where grows the grass
and the musical reed!

For how can you find a repose in the toss of the
tangle and weed?

The night sped along, and I strained to the shadow
and saw to the end

My captain and bird—he remained to the death, a
superlative friend:

In the face of the hurricane wild, he clung with the
babe to the mast;

To the last he was true to my child—he was true to
my child to the last:

The wind, like a life without home, comes mocking
at door and at pane
In the time of the cry of the foam—in the season
of thunder and rain,
And, dreaming, I start in the bed, and feel for my
little one's brow !
But lost is the beautiful head ; the cradle is tenant-
less now.

My home was all morning and glow when wife and
her baby were there,
But, ah ! it is saddened, you know, by dresses my
girl used to wear.
I cannot re-enter the door ; its threshold can never
be crossed,
For fear I should see on the floor the shoes of the
child I have lost.

There were three of us once in the world ; but two
are deep down in the sea,
Where waif and where tangle are hurled—the two
that were portions of me ;
They are far from me now, but I hear, when hushed
are the night and the tide,
The voice of my little one near—the step of my
wife by my side.

HOW THE MELBOURNE CUP WAS WON

I N the beams of a beautiful day,
 Made soft by a breeze from the sea,
The horses were started away,
 The fleet-footed thirty and three ;
Where beauty, with shining attire,
 Shed more than a noon on the land,
Like spirits of thunder and fire
 They flashed by the fence and the stand.

And the mouths of pale thousands were hushed
 When Somnus, a marvel of strength,
Past Bowes like a sudden wind rushed,
 And led the bay colt by a length ;
But a chestnut came galloping through,
 And, down where the river-tide steals,
O'Brien, on brave Waterloo,
 Dashed up to the big horse's heels.

But Cracknell still kept to the fore,
And first by the water bend wheeled,
When a cry from the stand, and a roar,
Ran over green furlongs of field ;
Far out by the back of the course—
A demon of muscle and pluck—
Flashed onward the favourite horse,
With his hoofs flaming clear of the ruck.

But the wonderful Queenslander came,
And the thundering leaders were three ;
And a ring, and a roll of acclaim,
Went out, like a surge of the sea :
“ An Epigram ! Epigram wins ! ”—
“ The colt of the Derby ”—“ The bay ! ”
But back where the crescent begins
The favourite melted away.

And the marvel that came from the North,
With another, was heavily thrown ;
And here at the turning flashed forth
To the front a surprising unknown ;
By shed and by paddock and gate
The strange, the magnificent black,
Led Darebin a length in “ the straight,”
With thirty and one at his back.

But the Derby colt tired at the rails,
And Ivory's marvellous bay
Passed Burton, O'Brien, and Hales,
As fleet as a flash of the day.
But Gough on the African star
Came clear in the front of his "field,"
Hard followed by Morrison's Czar
And the blood unaccustomed to yield.

Yes, first from the turn to the end,
With a boy on him paler than ghost,
The horse that had hardly a friend
Shot flashing like fire by the post.
When Graham was "riding" 'twas late
For his friends to applaud on the stands,
The black, through the bend and "the straight,"
Had the race of the year in his hands.

In a clamour of calls and acclaim,
He landed the money—the horse
With the beautiful African name,
That rang to the back of the course.
Hurrah for the Hercules race,
And the terror that came from his stall,
With the bright, the intelligent face,
To show the road home to them all!

ON A BABY BURIED BY THE
HAWKESBURY

[*Lines sent to a Young Mother.*]

A GRACE that was lent for a very few hours,
By the bountiful Spirit above us ;
She sleeps like a flower in the land of the flowers,
She went ere she knew how to love us ;
Her music of Heaven was strange to this sphere,
Her voice is a silence for ever ;
In the bitter, wild fall of a sorrowful year,
We buried our bird by the river.

But the gold of the grass, and the green of the
vine,
And the music of wind and of water,
And the torrent of song and superlative shine,
Are close to our dear little daughter ;
The months of the year are all gracious to her,
A winter breath visits her never ;
She sleeps like a bird in a cradle of myrrh,
By the banks of the beautiful river.

AT HER WINDOW

TO-NIGHT a strong south wind in thunder sings
Across the city. Now by salt wet flats,
And ridges perished with the breath of drought,
Comes up a deep, sonorous, gulf-like voice—
Far-travelled herald of some distant storm—
That strikes with harsh gigantic wings the cliff,
Where twofold Otway meets his straitened surf,
And makes a white wrath of a league of sea.

To-night the fretted Yarra chafes its banks,
And dusks and glistens ; while the city shows
A ring of windy light. From street to street
The noise of labour, linked to hurrying wheels,
Rolls off, as rolls the stately sound of wave,
When he that hears it hastens from the shore.

To-night beside a moody window sits
A wife who watches for her absent love ;
Her home is in a dim suburban street,
In which the winds, like one with straitened breath,
Now fleet with whispers dry and short half-sobs,
Or pause and beat against the showery panes
Like homeless mem'ries seeking for a home.

There, where the plopping of the guttered rain
Sounds like a heavy footstep in the dark,
Where every shadow thrown by flickering light
Seems like her husband halting at the door,
I say a woman sits, and waits, and sits,
Then trims her fire, and comes to wait again.

The chapel clock strikes twelve! He has not come.
The night grows wilder, and the wind dies off
The roads, now turned to thoroughfares of storm,
Save when a solitary, stumbling foot
Breaks through the clamour. Then the watcher starts,
And trembles, with her hand upon the key,
And flutters, with the love upon her lips—
Then sighs, returns, and takes her seat once more.
Is this the old, old tale? Ah! do not ask,
My gentle reader, but across your doubts
Throw shining reasons on the happier side;
Or, if you cannot choose but doubt the man—
If you do count him in your thoughts as one
Who leaves a good wife by a lonely hearth
For more than half the night, for scenes (we'll say)
Of revelry—I pray you think of how
That wretch must suffer in his waking times
(If he be human), when he recollects
That through the long, long hours of evil feasts
With painted sin, and under glaring gas,
His brightest friend was at a window-sill
A watcher, seated in a joyless room,
And haply left without a loaf of bread.

I, having learnt from sources pure and high,
From springs of love that make the perfect wife,
Can say how much a woman will endure
For one to whom her tender heart has passed:
When fortune fails, and friends drop off, and time
Has shadows waiting in predestined ways—
When shame that grows from want of money comes,
And sets its brand upon a husband's brow,
And makes him walk an alien in the streets:
One faithful face, on which a light divine
Becomes a glory when vicissitude
Is in its darkest mood—one face, I say,
Marks not the fallings-off that others see,
Seeks not to know the thoughts that others think,
Cares not to hear the words that others say:
But, through her deep and self-sufficing love,
She only sees the bright-eyed youth that won
Her maiden heart in other, happier days,
And not the silent, gloomy-featured man
That frets and shivers by a sullen fire.

And, therefore, knowing this from you, who've
shared

With me the ordeal of most trying times,
I sometimes feel a hot shame flushing up,
To think that there are those among my sex
Who are so cursed with small-souled selfishness
That they do give to noble wives like you,
For love—that first and final flower of life—
The dreadful portion of a drunkard's home.

WILLIAM BEDE DALLEY

THAT love of letters which is as the light
Of deathless verse, intense, ineffable,
Hath made this scholar's nature like the white,
Pure Roman soul of whom the poets tell.

He having lived so long with lords of thought,
The grand hierophants of speech and song,
Hath from the high, august communion caught
Some portion of their inspiration strong.

The clear, bright atmosphere through which he
looks
Is one by no dim, close horizon bound ;
The power shed as flame from noble books
Hath made for him a larger world around.

And he, thus strengthened with the fourfold force
Which scholarship to genius gives, is one
That liberal thinkers, pausing in their course,
With fine esteem are glad to look upon.

He, with the faultless intuition born
Of splendid faculties, sees things aright,
And all his strong, immeasurable scorn
Falls like a thunder on the hypocrite.

But for the sufferer and the son of shame
On whom remorse—a great, sad burden—lies,
His kindness glistens like a morning flame,
Immense compassion shines within his eyes.

Firm to the Church by which his fathers stood,
But tolerant to every form of creed,
He longs for universal brotherhood,
And is a Christian gentleman indeed.

These in his honour. May his life be long,
And, like a summer with a brilliant close,
As full of music as a perfect song,
As radiant as a rich unhandled rose.

ON A STREET

I DREAD that street—its haggard face
I have not seen for eight long years ;
A mother's curse is on the place
(There's blood, my reader, in her tears).
No child of man shall ever track,
Through filthy dust, the singer's feet—
A fierce old memory drags me back ;
I hate its name—I dread that street:

Upon the lap of green, sweet lands,
Whose months are like your English Mays,
I try to hide in Lethe's sands
The bitter old Bohemian days.
But sorrow speaks in singing leaf,
And trouble talketh in the tide ;
The skirts of a stupendous grief
Are trailing ever at my side:

I will not say who suffered there,
'Tis best the name aloof to keep,
Because the world is very fair—
Its light should sing the dark to sleep.
But, let me whisper, in that street
A woman, faint through want of bread,
Has often pawned the quilt and sheet
And wept upon a barren bed.

How gladly would I change my theme,
Or cease the song and steal away,
But on the hill and by the stream
A ghost is with me night and day!
A dreadful darkness, full of wild,
Chaotic visions, comes to me:
I seem to hear a dying child,
Its mother's face I seem to see.

Here, surely, on this bank of bloom,
My verse with shine would ever flow;
But ah! it comes—the rented room,
With man and wife who suffered so!
From flower and leaf there is no hint—
I only see a sharp distress—
A lady in a faded print,
A careworn writer for the press.

I only hear the brutal curse
Of landlord clamouring for his pay ;
And yonder is the pauper's hearse
That comes to take a child away.
Apart, and with the half-grey head
Of sudden age, again I see
The father writing by the dead,
To earn the undertaker's fee.

No tear at all is asked for him—
A drunkard well deserves his life ;
But voice will quiver, eyes grow dim,
For her, the patient, pure young wife,
The gentle girl of better days,
As timid as a mountain fawn,
Who used to choose untrodden ways,
And place at night her rags in pawn.

She could not face the lighted square,
Or show the street her poor, thin dress ;
In one close chamber, bleak and bare,
She hid her burden of distress.
Her happy schoolmates used to drive,
On gaudy wheels, the town about ;
The meat that keeps a dog alive
She often had to go without.

I tell you, this is not a tale
Conceived by me, but bitter truth ;
Bohemia knows it, pinched and pale,
Beside the pyre of burnt-out youth:
These eyes of mine have often seen
The sweet girl-wife, in winters rude,
Steal out at night, through courts unclean,
To hunt about for chips of wood.

Have I no word at all for him
Who used down fetid lanes to slink,
And squat in tap-room corners grim,
And drown his thoughts in dregs of drink ?
This much I'll say, that when the flame
Of reason reassumed its force,
The hell the Christian fears to name,
Was heaven to his fierce remorse.

Just think of him—beneath the ban,
And steeped in sorrow to the neck,
Without a friend—a feeble man,
In failing health—a human wreck.
With all his sense and scholarship,
How could he face his fading wife ?
The devil never lifted whip
With strings like those that scourged his life.

But He in whom the dying thief
Upon the Cross did place his trust,
Forgets the sin and feels the grief,
And lifts the sufferer from the dust.
And now, because I have a dream,
The man and woman found the light ;
A glory burns upon the stream,
With gold and green the woods are bright.

But still I hate that haggard street,
Its filthy courts, its alleys wild ;
In dreams of it I always meet
The phantom of a wailing child.
The name of it begets distress—
Ah, song, be silent ! show no more
The lady in the perished dress,
The scholar on the tap-room floor.

AUTHOR'S NOTE.—The few who know the story of poor W—— of Melbourne will perhaps see force in these uncoloured verses.

HYMN OF PRAISE

[Closing of Exhibition.]

ENCOMPASSED by the psalm of hill and stream,
By hymns august with their majestic theme,
Here in the evening of exalted days
To Thee, our Friend, we bow with breath of praise.

The great sublime hosannas of the sea
Ascend on wings of mighty winds to Thee,
And mingled with their stately words are tones
Of human love, O Lord of all the zones !

Ah ! at the close of many splendid hours,
While falls Thy gracious light in radiant showers,
We seek Thy face, we praise Thee, bless Thee, sing
This song of reverence, Master, Maker, King !

To Thee, from whom all shining blessings flow,
All gifts of lustre, all the joys we know,
To Thee, O Father, in this lordly space,
The great world turns with worship in its face.

For that glad season which will pass to-day
With light and music like a psalm away
The gathered nations with a grand accord,
In sight of Thy high heaven, thank Thee, Lord !

All praise is Thine—all love that we can give
Is also Thine, in whose large grace we live,
In whom we find the *One* long-suffering Friend,
Whose immemorial mercy has no end.

ROBERT PARKES

HIGH travelling winds by royal hill
 Their awful anthem sing,
And songs exalted flow and fill
 The caverns of the spring.

To-night across a wild wet plain
 A shadow sobs and strays ;
The trees are whispering in the rain
 Of long departed days.

I cannot say what forest saith—
 Its words are strange to me :
I only know that in its breath
 Are tones that used to be.

Yea, in these deep dim solitudes
 I hear a sound I know—
The voice that lived in Penrith woods
 Twelve weary years ago.

And while the hymn of other years
Is on a listening land,
The Angel of the Past appears
And leads me by the hand ;

And takes me over moaning wave,
And tracts of sleepless change,
To set me by a lonely grave
Within a lonely range.

The halo of the beautiful
Is round the quiet spot ;
The grass is deep, and green, and cool,
Where sound of life is not.

Here in this lovely lap of bloom,
The grace of glen and glade,
That tender days and nights illumine,
My gentle friend was laid.

I do not mark the shell that lies
Beneath the touching flowers ;
I only see the radiant eyes
Of other scenes and hours.

I only turn, by grief inspired,
Like some forsaken thing,
To look upon a life retired
As hushed Bethesda's spring.

The glory of unblemished days
Is on the silent mound—
The light of years, too pure for praise ;
I kneel on holy ground !

Here is the clay of one whose mind
Was fairer than the dew,
The sweetest nature of his kind
I haply ever knew.

This Christian, walking on the white
Clear paths apart from strife,
Kept far from all the heat and light
That fills his father's life.

The clamour and exceeding flame
Were never in his days :
A higher object was his aim
Than thrones of shine and praise.

Ah! like an English April psalm,
That floats by sea and strand,
He passed away into the calm
Of the Eternal Land:

The chair he filled is set aside
Upon his father's floor ;
In morning hours, at eventide,
His step is heard no more.

No more his face the forest knows ;
His voice is of the past ;
But from his life of beauty flows
A radiance that will last.

Yea, from the hours that heard his speech
High shining mem'ries give
That fine example which will teach
Our children how to live.

Here, kneeling in the body, far
From grave of flower and dew,
My friend beyond the path of star,
I say these words to you:

Though you were as a fleeting flame
Across my road austere,
The memory of your face became
A thing for ever dear.

I never have forgotten yet
The Christian's gentle touch ;
And, since the time when last we met,
You know I've suffered much:

I feel that I have given pain
By certain words and deeds,
But stricken here with Sorrow's rain
My contrite spirit bleeds.

For your sole sake I rue the blow,
But this assurance send :
I smote, in noon, the public foe,
But not the private friend:

I know that once I wronged your sire,
But since that awful day
My soul has passed through blood and fire,
My head is very grey.

Here let me pause ! From years like yours
There ever flows and thrives
The splendid blessing which endures
Beyond our little lives.

From lonely lands across the wave
Is sent to-night by me
This rose of reverence for the grave
Beside the mountain lea.

THE AUSTRAL MONTHS

JANUARY

THE first fair month ! In singing Summer's
sphere

She glows, the eldest daughter of the year.
All light, all warmth, all passion, breaths of myrrh,
And subtle hints of rose-lands, come with her.
She is the warm, live month of lustre—she
Makes glad the land and lulls the strong sad sea.
The highest hope comes with her. In her face
Of pure, clear colour lives exalted grace ;
Her speech is beauty, and her radiant eyes
Are eloquent with splendid prophecies .

FEBRUARY

THE bright-haired, blue-eyed last of Summer. Lo,
Her clear song lives in all the winds that blow ;
The upland torrent and the lowland rill,
The stream of valley and the spring of hill,
The pools that slumber and the brooks that run
Where dense the leaves are, green the light of sun,
Take all her grace of voice and colour. She,
With rich warm vine-blood splashed from heel to
knee,
Comes radiant through the yellow woodlands. Far
And near her sweet gifts shine like star by star.
She is the true Demeter. Life of root
Glow under her in gardens flushed with fruit ;
She fills the fields with strength and passion—makes
A fire of lustre on the lawn-ringed lakes ;
Her beauty awes the great wild sea ; the height
Of grey magnificence takes strange delight
And softens at her presence, at the dear
Sweet face whose memory beams through all the
year.

MARCH

CLEAR upland voices, full of wind and stream,
Greet March, the sister of the flying beam
And speedy shadow. She, with rainbow crowned,
Lives in a sphere of songs of many sound.
The hymn of waters and the gale's high tone,
With anthems from the thunder's mountain throne,
Are with her ever. This, behold, is she
Who draws its great cry from the strong sad sea ;
She is the month of majesty. Her force
Is power that moves along a stately course,
Within the lines of order, like no wild
And lawless strength of winter's fiercest child.
About her are the wind-whipped torrents ; far
Above her gleams and flies the stormy star,
And round her, through the highlands and their
rocks,
Rings loud the grand speech from the equinox.

APRIL

THE darling of Australia's Autumn—now
Down dewy dells the strong, swift torrents flow !
This is the month of singing waters—here
A tender radiance fills the Southern year ;
No bitter winter sets on herb and root,
Within these gracious glades, a frosty foot ;
The spears of sleet, the arrows of the hail,
Are here unknown. But down the dark green dale
Of moss and myrtle, and the herby streams,
This April wanders in a home of dreams ;
Her flower-soft name makes language falter. All
Her paths are soft and cool, and runnels fall
In music round her ; and the woodlands sing,
For evermore, with voice of wind and wing,
Because this is the month of beauty—this
The crowning grace of all the grace that is.

MAY

Now sings a cool, bland wind, where falls and flows
The runnel by the grave of last year's rose ;
Now, underneath the strong perennial leaves,
The first slow voice of wintering torrent grieves.
Now in a light like English August's day,
Is seen the fair, sweet, chastened face of May ;
She is the daughter of the year who stands
With Autumn's last rich offerings in her hands ;
Behind her gleams the ghost of April's noon,
Before her is the far, faint dawn of June ;
She lingers where the dells and dewy leas
Catch stormy sayings from the great bold seas ;
Her nightly raiment is the misty fold
That zones her round with moonlight-coloured gold ;
And in the day she sheds, from shining wings,
A tender heat that keeps the life in things.

JUNE

Not like that month when, in imperial space,
The high, strong sun stares at the white world's face ;
Not like that haughty daughter of the year
Who moves, a splendour, in a splendid sphere ;
But rather like a nymph of afternoon,
With cool, soft sunshine, comes Australian June.
She is the calm, sweet lady, from whose lips
No breath of living passion ever slips ;
The wind that on her virgin forehead blows
Was born too late to speak of last year's rose ;
She never saw a blossom, but her eyes
Of tender beauty see blue, gracious skies ;
She loves the mosses, and her feet have been
In woodlands where the leaves are always green ;
Her days pass on with sea-songs, and her nights
Shine, full of stars, on lands of frosty lights.

JULY

HIGH travelling winds, filled with the strong storm's
soul,

Are here, with dark, strange sayings from the Pole ;
Now is the time when every great cave rings
With sharp, clear echoes caught from mountain
springs ;

This is the season when all torrents run

Beneath no bright, glad beauty of the sun.

Here, where the trace of last year's green is lost,

Are haughty gales, and lordships of the frost ;

Far down, by fields forlorn and forelands bleak,

Are wings that fly not, birds that never speak ;

But in the deep hearts of the glens, unseen,

Stand grave, mute forests of eternal green ;

And here the lady, born in wind and rain,

Comes oft to moan and clap her palms with pain ;

This is our wild-faced July, in whose breast

Is never faultless light or perfect rest.

AUGUST

ACROSS the range, by every scarred black fell,
Strong Winter blows his horn of wild farewell ;
And in the glens, where yet there moves no wing,
A slow, sweet voice is singing of the Spring.
Yea, where the bright, quick woodland torrents run,
A music trembles under rain and sun.
The lips that breathe it are the lips of her
At whose dear touch the wan world's pulses stir—
The nymph who sets the bow of promise high
And fills with warm life-light the bleak grey sky.
She is the fair-haired August. Ere she leaves
She brings the woodbine blossom round the eaves ;
And where the bitter barbs of frost have been
She makes a beauty with her gold and green ;
And, while a sea-song floats from bay and beach,
She sheds a mist of blossoms on the peach.

SEPTEMBER—*See page 79.*

OCTOBER

WHERE fountains sing and many waters meet,
October comes with blossom-trammelled feet.
She sheds green glory by the wayside rills
And clothes with grace the haughty-featured hills.
This is the queen of all the year. She brings
The pure chief beauty of our Southern springs.
Fair lady of the yellow hair! Her breath
Starts flowers to life, and shames the storm to death ;
Through tender nights and days of generous sun
By prospering woods her clear strong torrents run ;
In far deep forests, where all life is mute,
Of leaf and bough she makes a touching lute.
Her life is lovely. Stream, and wind, and bird
Have seen her face—her marvellous voice have
 heard ;
And, in strange tracts of wildwood, all day long,
They tell the story in surpassing song.

NOVEMBER

Now beats the first warm pulse of Summer—now
There shines great glory on the mountain's brow.
The face of heaven in the western sky,
When falls the sun, is filled with Deity !
And while the first light floods the lake and lea,
The morning makes a marvel of the sea ;
The strong leaves sing ; and in the deep green zones
Of rock-bound glens the streams have many tones ;
And where the evening-coloured waters pass,
Now glides November down fair falls of grass.
She is the wonder with the golden wings,
Who lays one hand in Summer's—one in Spring's ;
About her hair a sunset radiance glows ;
Her mouth is sister of the dewy rose ;
And all the beauty of the pure blue skies
Has lent its lustre to her soft bright eyes.

DECEMBER

THE month whose face is holiness ! She brings
With her the glory of majestic things.
What words of light, what high resplendent phrase
Have I for all the lustre of her days ?
She comes, and carries in her shining sphere
August traditions of the world's great year ;
The noble tale which lifts the human race
Has made a morning of her sacred face.
Now in the emerald home of flower and wing
Clear summer streams their sweet hosannas sing ;
The winds are full of anthems, and a lute
Speaks in the listening hills when night is mute ;
And through dim tracks where talks the royal tree
There floats a grand hymn from the mighty sea ;
And where the grey, grave, pondering mountains
stand
High music lives—the place is holy land !

JOHN DUNMORE LANG

THE song that is last of the many
Whose music is full of thy name,
Is weaker, oh, father ! than any,
Is fainter than flickering flame.
But far in the folds of the mountains
Whose bases are hoary with sea,
By lone immemorial fountains
This singer is mourning for thee.

Because thou wert chief and a giant
With those who fought on for the right ;
A hero determined ! defiant
As flame was the sleep of thy might ;
Like Stephen in days that are olden,
Thy lot with a rabble was cast,
But seasons came on that were golden,
And Peace was thy mother at last.

I knew of thy fierce tribulation,
Thou wert ever the same in my thought—
The father and friend of a nation
Through good and through evil report.
At Ephesus, fighting in fetters,
Paul drove the wild beasts to their pen ;
So thou with the lash of thy letters
Whipped infamy back to its den.

The noise of thy battle is over,
Thy sword is hung up in its sheath ;
Thy grave has been decked by its lover
With beauty of willowy wreath.
The winds sing about thee for ever,
The voices of hill and of sea ;
But the cry of the conflict will never
Bring sorrow again unto thee:

SONG OF THE SHINGLE-SPLITTERS

I N dark wild woods, where the lone owl broods
And the dingoes nightly yell—
Where the curlew's cry goes floating by,
We splitters of shingles dwell:
And all day through, from the time of the dew
To the hour when the mopoke calls,
Our mallets ring where the woodbirds sing
Sweet hymns by the waterfalls.
And all night long we are lulled by the song
Of gales in the grand old trees ;
And in the breaks we can hear the lakes
And the moan of the distant seas.
For afar from heat and dust of street,
And hall and turret, and dome,
In forest deep, where the torrents leap,
Is the shingle-splitter's home.

The dweller in town may lie upon down,
And own his palace and park :
We envy him not his prosperous lot,
Though we slumber on sheets of bark.

344 SONG OF THE SHINGLE-SPLITTERS

Our food is rough, but we have enough ;
Our drink is better than wine :
For cool creeks flow wherever we go,
Shut in from the hot sunshine.
Though rude our roof, it is weather-proof,
And at the end of the days
We sit and smoke over yarn and joke,
By the bush-fire's sturdy blaze.
For away from din, and sorrow and sin,
Where troubles but rarely come,
We jog along, like a merry song,
In the shingle-splitter's home.

What though our work be heavy, we shirk
From nothing beneath the sun ;
And toil is sweet to those who can eat
And rest when the day is done.
In the Sabbath-time we hear no chime,
No sound of the Sunday bells ;
But yet Heaven smiles on the forest aisles,
And God in the woodland dwells.
We listen to notes from the million throats
Of chorister birds on high,
Our psalm is the breeze in the lordly trees,
And our dome is the broad blue sky.
Oh ! a brave frank life, unsmitten by strife,
We live wherever we roam,
And our hearts are free as the great strong sea,
In the shingle-splitter's home.

HEATH FROM THE HIGHLANDS

HERE, where the great hills fall away
To bays of silver sea,
I hold within my hand to-day
A wild thing, strange to me.

Behind me is the deep green dell
Where lives familiar light ;
The leaves and flowers I know so well
Are gleaming in my sight.

And yonder is the mountain glen,
Where sings in trees unstirred
By breath of breeze or axe of men
The shining satin-bird.

The old weird cry of plover comes
Across the marshy ways,
And here the hermit hornet hums,
And here the wild bee strays.

No novel life or light I see,
 On hill, in dale beneath :
 All things around are known to me
 Except this bit of heath.

This touching growth hath made me dream—
 It sends my soul afar
 To where the Scottish mountains gleam
 Against the Northern star.

It droops—this plant—like one who grieves ;
 But, while my fancy glows,
 There is that glory on its leaves
 Which never robed the rose.

For near its wind-blown native spot
 Were born, by crags uphurled,
 The ringing songs of Walter Scott
 That shook the whole wide world:

There, haply, by the sounding streams,
 And where the fountains break,
 He saw the darling of his dreams,
 The Lady of the Lake:

And on the peaks where never leaf
 Of lowland beauty grew,
 Perhaps he met Clan Alpine's chief,
 The rugged Roderick Dhu:

Not far, perchance, this heather throve
 (Above fair banks of ferns),
From that green place of stream and grove
 That knew the voice of Burns.

Against the radiant river ways
 Still waves the noble wood,
Where in the old majestic days
 The Scottish poet stood:

Perhaps my heather used to beam
 In robes of morning frost,
By dells which saw that lovely dream—
 The Mary that he lost.

I hope, indeed, the singer knew
 The little spot of land
On which the mountain beauty grew
 That withers in my hand.

A Highland sky my vision fills ;
 I feel the great, strong North—
The hard grey weather of the hills
 That brings men-children forth.

The peaks of Scotland, where the din
 And flame of thunders go,
Seem near me, with the masculine,
 Hale sons of wind and snow.

348 HEATH FROM THE HIGHLANDS

So potent is this heather, here,
That under skies of blue,
I seem to breathe the atmosphere
That William Wallace knew.

And under windy mountain wall,
Where breaks the torrent loose,
I fancy I can hear the call
Of grand old Robert Bruce:

ABORIGINAL DEATH-SONG

FEET of the flying, and fierce
Tops of the sharp-headed spear,
Hard by the thickets that pierce,
Lo! they are nimble and near.

Women are we, and the wives
Strong Arrawatta hath won ;
Weary because of our lives,
Sick of the face of the sun.

Koola, our love and our light,
What have they done unto you ?
Man of the star-reaching sight,
Dipped in the fire and the dew.

Black-headed snakes in the grass
Struck at the fleet-footed lord—
Still is his voice at the pass,
Soundless his step at the ford.

Far by the forested glen,
Starkly he lies in the rain ;
Kings of the council of men
Shout for their leader in vain.

Yea, and the fish-river clear
Never shall blacken below
Spear and the shadow of spear,
Bow and the shadow of bow.

Hunter, and climber of trees,
Now doth his tomahawk rust
(Dread of the cunning wild bees),
Hidden in hillocks of dust.

We, who were followed and bound,
Dashed under foot by the foe,
Sit with our eyes to the ground,
Faint from the brand and the blow.

Dumb with the sorrow that kills,
Sorrow for brother and chief,
Terror of thundering hills,
Having no hope in our grief.

Seeing the fathers are far
Seeking the spoils of the dead
Left on the path of the war,
Matted and mangled and red.

EUTERPE¹

A CANTATA

ARGUMENT.

Hail to thee, Sound!—The power of Euterpe in all the scenes of life—In religion ; in works of charity ; in soothing troubles by means of music ; in all humane and high purposes ; in war ; in grief ; in the social circle ; the children's lullaby ; the dance ; the ballad ; in conviviality ; when far from home ; at evening—the whole ending with an allegorical chorus, rejoicing at the building of a mighty hall erected for the recreation of a nation destined to take no inconsiderable part in the future history of the world.

OVERTURE

No. I Chorus

ALL hail to thee, Sound ! Since the time
Calliope's son took the lyre,
And lulled in the heart of their clime
The demons of darkness and fire ;
Since Eurydice's lover brought tears
To the eyes of the Princes of Night,
Thou hast been, through the world's weary years,
A marvellous source of delight—
Yea, a marvellous source of delight !

¹ Set to music by C. E. Horsley, and sung at the opening of the Melbourne Town Hall, 1870.

In the wind, in the wave, in the fall
Of the water, each note of thine dwells ;
But Euterpe hath gathered from all
The sweetest to weave into spells.
She makes a miraculous power
Of thee with her magical skill ;
And gives us, for bounty or dower,
The accents that soothe us or thrill !
Yea, the accents that soothe us or thrill !

All hail to thee, Sound ! Let us thank
The great Giver of light and of life
For the music divine that we've drank.
In seasons of peace and of strife,
Let us gratefully think of the balm
That falls on humanity tired,
At the tones of the song or the psalm
From lips and from fingers inspired—
Yea, from lips and from fingers inspired.

No. 2 Quartette and Chorus

When, in her sacred fanes
God's daughter, sweet Religion, prays,
Euterpe's holier strains
Her thoughts from earth to heaven raise.
The organ notes sublime
Put every worldly dream to flight ;
They sanctify the time,
And fill the place with hallowed light.

No. 3 Soprano Solo

Yea, and when that meek-eyed maiden
Men call Charity, comes fain
To raise up spirits, laden
With bleak poverty and pain :
Often, in her cause enlisted,
Music softens hearts like stones ;
And the fallen are assisted
Through Euterpe's wondrous tones.

*No. 4 Orchestral Intermezzo**No. 5 Chorus*

Beautiful is Sound devoted
To all ends humane and high ;
And its sweetness never floated,
Like a thing unheeded, by.
Power it has on souls encrusted
With the selfishness of years ;
Yea, and thousands Mammon rusted,
Hear it, feel it, leave in tears.

*No. 6 Choral Recitative**(Men's voices only)*

When on the battlefield, and in the sight
Of tens of thousands bent to smite and slay
Their human brothers, how the soldier's heart
Must leap at sounds of martial music, fired

With all that spirit that the patriot loves
Who seeks to win, or nobly fall, for home !

No. 7 Triumphal March

No. 8 Funeral Chorus

Slowly and mournfully moves a procession,
Wearing the signs
Of sorrow, through loss, and it halts like a shadow
Of death in the pines.
Come from the fane that is filled with God's presence,
Sad sounds and deep ;
Holy Euterpe, she sings of our brother,
We listen and weep.
Death, like the Angel that passed over Egypt,
Struck at us sore ;
Never again shall we turn at our loved one's
Step at the door.

No. 9 Chorus

(Soprano voices only)

But, passing from sorrow, the spirit
Of Music—a glory—doth rove
Where it lightens the features of beauty,
And burns through the accents of love
The passionate accents of love.

No. 10 Lullaby Song—Contralto

The night-shades gather, and the sea
Sends up a sound, sonorous, deep ;
The plover's wail comes down the lea ;
By slope and vale the vapours weep ;
And dew is on the tree ;
And now where homesteads be,
The children fall asleep,
Asleep.

A low-voiced wind amongst the leaves,
The sighing leaves that mourn the Spring,
Like some lone spirit, flits and grieves,
And grieves and flits on fitful wing.
But where Song is a guest,
A lulling dreamy thing,
The children fall to rest,
To rest.

No. 11 Waltz Chorus

When the summer moon is beaming
On the stirless waters dreaming,
And the keen grey summits gleaming,
Through a silver starry haze ;
In our homes to strains entrancing
To the steps, the quickly glancing
Steps of youths and maidens dancing,
Maidens light of foot as fays.

Then the waltz, whose rhythmic paces
Make melodious happy places,
Brings a brightness to young faces,
 Brings a sweetness to the eyes.
Sounds that move us like entralling
Accents, where the runnel falling,
Sends out flute-like voices calling,
 Where the sweet wild moss-bed lies.

No. 12 Ballad—Tenor

When twilight glides with ghostly tread
 Across the western heights,
And in the east the hills are red
 With sunset's fading lights ;
Then music floats from cot and hall
 Where social circles met,
By sweet Euterpe held in thrall—
 Their daily cares forget.

What joy it is to watch the shine
 That hallows beauty's face
When woman sings the strains divine,
 Whose passion floods the place !
Then how the thoughts and feelings rove
 At song's inspiring breath,
In homes made beautiful by love,
 Or sanctified by death.

What visions come, what dreams arise,
What Edens youth will limn,
When leaning over her whose eyes
Have sweetened life for him !
For while she sings and while she plays,
And while her voice is low,
His fancy paints diviner days
Than any we can know.

No. 13 Drinking Song

(Men's voices only)

But, hurrah ! for the table that heavily groans
With the good things that keep in the life ;
When we sing, and we dance, and we drink to the
tones

That are masculine, thorough and blithe:

Good luck to us all ! Over walnuts and wine
We hear the rare songs that we know,
Are as brimful of mirth as the spring is of shine,
And as healthy and hearty, we trow.

Then our glasses we charge to the ring of the stave
That the flush to our faces doth send ;
For though life is a thing that winds up with the
grave,

We'll be jolly, my boys, to the end:

Hurrah ! Hurrah !

Yes, jolly, my boys, to the end !

No. 14 Recitative—Bass

When far from friends, and home, and all the things
That bind a man to life, how dear to him
Is any old familiar sound that takes
Him back to spots where Love and Hope
In past days used to wander hand in hand
Across high-flowered meadows, and the paths
Whose borders shared the beauty of the spring,
And borrowed splendour from autumnal suns.

No. 15 Chorus

*(The voices accompanied only by the violins playing
“Home, Sweet Home.”)*

Then at sea, or in wild wood,
Then ashore or afloat,
All the scenes of his childhood
Come back at a note ;
At the turn of a ballad,
At the tones of a song,
Cometh Memory, pallid
And speechless so long ;
And she points with her finger
To phantom-like years,
And loveth to linger
In silence, in tears:

No. 16 Solo—Bass

In the yellow flame of evening sounds of music come
and go,
Through the noises of the river, and the drifting of
the snow ;
In the yellow flame of evening, at the setting of the
day,
Sounds that lighten, fall, and lighten, flicker, faint,
and fade away ;
What they are, behold, we know not, but their honey
slakes and slays
Half the want which whitens manhood in the stress
of alien days.
Even as a wondrous woman, struck with love and
great desire,
Hast thou been to us, EUTERPE, half of tears and
half of fire ;
But thy joy is swift and fitful, and a subtle sense
of pain
Sighs through thy melodious breathings, takes the
rapture from thy strain.
In the yellow flame of evening sounds of music
come and go,
Through the noises of the river, and the drifting of
the snow.

No. 17 Recitative—Soprano

And thus it is that Music manifold,
In fanes, in Passion's sanctuaries, or where

The social feast is held, is still the power
That bindeth heart to heart ; and whether Grief,
Or Love, or Pleasure form the link, we know
'Tis still a bond that makes Humanity,
That wearied entity, a single whole,
And soothes the trouble of the heart bereaved,
And lulls the beatings in the breast that yearns,
And gives more gladness to the gladdest things.

No. 18 Finale—Chorus

Now a vision comes, O brothers, blended
With supremest sounds of harmony—
Comes, and shows a temple, stately, splendid,
In a radiant city by the sea.
Founders, fathers of a mighty nation,
Raised the walls, and built the royal dome,
Gleaming now from lofty, lordly station,
Like a dream of Athens, or of Rome !
And a splendour of sound,
A thunder of song,
Rolls sea-like around,
Comes sea-like along.

The ringing, and ringing, and ringing,
Of voices of choristers singing,
Inspired by a national joy,

Strike through the marvellous hall,
Fly by the aisle and the wall,
 While the organ notes roam
 From basement to dome—
 Now low as a wail,
 Now loud as a gale,
And as grand as the music that builded old Troy.

TO THE SPIRIT OF MUSIC

I

THE cool grass blowing in a breeze
Of April valleys sooms and sways;
On slopes that dip to quiet seas
Through far faint drifts of yellowing haze.
I lie like one who, in a dream
Of sounds and splendid coloured things,
Seems lifted into life supreme
And has a sense of waxing wings.
For through a great arch-light which floods,
And breaks, and spreads, and swims along
High royal-robed autumnal woods,
I hear a glorious sunset song.
But, ah, Euterpe! I that pause
And listen to the strain divine
Can never learn its words, because
I am no son of thine.

How sweet is wandering where the west
Is full of thee, what time the morn
Looks from his halls of rosy rest
Across green miles of gleaming corn!

How sweet are dreams in shady nooks,
 When bees are out, and day is mute
 While down the dell there floats the brook's
 Fine echo of thy marvellous lute !

And oh, how sweet is that sad tune
 Of thine, within the evening breeze,
 Which roams beneath the mirrored moon
 On silver-sleeping summer seas !

How blest are they whom thou hast crowned,
 Thy priests—the lords who understand
 The deep divinity of sound,
 And live their lives in Wonderland !

These stand within thy courts and see
 The light exceeding round thy throne,
 But I—an alien unto thee—
 I faint afar off, and alone.

II

In hills where the keen Thessalonian
 Made clamour with horse and with horn,
 In oracular woods the Dodonian,
 The mystical maiden was born.
 And the high, the Olympian seven
 Ringed round with ineffable flame,
 Baptized her in halos of heaven,
 And gave her her beautiful name.
 And Delphicus, loving her, brought her
 Immutable dower of dreams,

And clothed her with glory, and taught her
The words of the winds and the streams.

She dwelt with the echoes that dwell
In far immemorial hills ;
She wove of their speeches a spell—
She borrowed the songs of the rills ;
And anthems of forest and fire,
And passionate psalms of the rain
Had life in the life of the lyre,
And breath in its infinite strain.
In a fair, in a floral abode,
Of purple and yellow and red,
The voice of her floated and flowed,
The light of her lingered and spread,
And ever there slipt through the bars
Of the leaves of her luminous bowers,
Syllables splendid as stars,
And faultless as moon-litten flowers.

III

Lady of a land of wonder,
Daughter of the hills supernal,
Far from frost and far from thunder
Under sons and moons eternal !
Long ago the strong Immortals
Took her hence on wheels of fire,
Caught her up and shut their portals,
Floral maid with fervent lyre.

But stray fallen notes of brightness
Yet within our world are ringing,
Floating on the winds of lightness
Glorious fragments of her singing.

Bud of light, she shines above us ;
But a few of starry pinions—
Passioned souls who are her lovers—
Dwell in her divine dominions.
Few they are, but in the centric
Fanes of Beauty hold their station ;
Kings of music, lords authentic,
Of the worlds of Inspiration.
These are they to whom are given
Eyes to see the singing stream-land,
Far from earth and near to heaven,
Known to gods and men as Dreamland.

Mournful humanity, stricken and worn,
Toiling for peace in undignified days,
Set in a sphere with the shadows forlorn,
Seeing sublimity dimmed by a haze—
Mournful humanity wearing the sign
Of trouble with time and unequable things,
Long alienated from spaces divine,
Sometimes remembers that once it had wings.
Chiefly it is when the song and the light
Sweeten the heart of the summering west,
Music and glory that lend to the night
Glimpses of marvellous havens of rest.

Chiefly it is when the beautiful day
Dies with a sound on its lips like a psalm—
Anthem of loveliness drifting away
Over a sea of unspeakable calm.

Then Euterpe's harmonies
In the ballad rich and rare,
Freighted with old memories,
Float upon the evening air—
Float, like shine in films of rain,
Full of past pathetic themes,
Tales of perished joy and pain,
Frail and faint as dreams in dreams:
Then to far-off homes we rove,
Homes of youth, and hope, and faith,
Beautiful with lights of love—
Sanctified by shrines of death.

Ah! and in that quiet hour
Soul by soul is borne away
Over tracts of leaf and flower,
Lit with a supernal day;
Over Music-world serene,
Spheres unknown to woes and wars,
Homes of wildernesses green,
Silver seas and golden shores;
Then, like spirits glorified,
Sweet to hear and bright to see,
Lords in Eden they abide
Robed with strange new majesty.

ADAM LINDSAY GORDON

A MEMORIAL ODE.

AT rest! Hard by the margin of that sea
Whose sounds are mingled with his noble
verse

Now lies the shell that never more will house
The fine strong spirit of my gifted friend.
Yea, he who flashed upon us suddenly,
A shining soul with syllables of fire,
Who sang the first great songs these lands can claim
To be their own; the one who did not seem
To know what royal place awaited him,
Within the Temple of the Beautiful,
Has passed away; and we who knew him sit
Aghast in darkness, dumb with that great grief
Whose stature yet we cannot comprehend;
While over yonder churchyard, hearsed with pines,
The night wind sings its immemorial hymn,
And sobs above a newly-covered grave.
The bard, the scholar, and the man who lived,
That frank, that open-hearted life which keeps
The splendid fire of English chivalry
From dying out; the one who never wronged

A fellow man ; the faithful friend who judged
The many, anxious to be loved of him,
By what he saw, and not by what he heard,
As lesser spirits do ; the brave, great soul
That never told a lie, or turned aside
To fly from danger—he, as I say, was one
Of that bright company this sin-stained world
Can ill afford to lose.

They did not know,
The hundreds who had read his sturdy verse
And revelled over ringing major notes,
The mournful meaning of the undersong
Which runs through all he wrote, and often takes
The deep autumnal, half-prophetic tone
Of forest winds in March ; nor did they think
That on that healthy-hearted man there lay
The wild specific curse which seems to cling
For ever to the Poet's twofold life !

To Adam Lindsay Gordon, I who laid
Two years ago on Lionel Michael's grave
A tender leaf of my regard ; yea, I
Who culled a garland from the flowers of song
To place where Harpur sleeps ; I, left alone,
The sad disciple of a shining band,
Now gone—to Adam Lindsay Gordon's name
I dedicate these lines ; and if 'tis true
That, past the darkness of the grave, the soul

Becomes omniscient, then the bard may stoop
From his high seat to take the offering,
And read it with a sigh for human friends,
In human bonds, and grey with human griefs.

And having wove and proffered this poor wreath,
I stand to-day as lone as he who saw
At nightfall, through the glimmering moony mist,
The last of Arthur on the wailing mere,
And strained in vain to hear the going voice,

SYDNEY HARBOUR

WHERE Hornby, like a mighty fallen star,
Burns through the darkness with a splendid
ring

Of tenfold light, and where the awful face
Of Sydney's northern headland stares all night
O'er dark determined waters from the east,
From year to year a wild, Titanic voice,
Of fierce aggressive sea shoots up and makes,
When storm sails high through drifts of driving sleet,
And in the days when limpid waters glass
December's sunny hair and forest face,
A roaring down by immemorial caves—
A thunder in the everlasting hills.

But calm and lucid as an English lake,
Beloved by beams and wooed by wind and wing,
Shut in from tempest—trampled wastes of wave
Shelterèd from white wraths of surge by walls—
Grand ramparts founded by the hand of God,
The lordly harbour gleams. Yea, like a shield
Of marvellous gold dropped in his fiery flight
By some lost angel in the elder days,

When Satan faced and fought Omnipotence,
It shines amongst fair flowering hills, and flows
By dells of glimmering greenness manifold,
And all day long when soft-eyed Spring comes round
With gracious gifts of bird, and leaf, and grass ;
And through the noon, when sumptuous Summer
sleeps

By yellowing runnels under beetling cliffs,
This royal water blossoms far and wide
With ships from all the corners of the world.

And while sweet Autumn with her gipsy face
Stands in the gardens splashed from heels to thigh
With spinning vine-blood—yea, and when the mild
Wan face of our Australian Winter looks
Across the congregated southern fens,
Then low melodious shell-like songs are heard
Beneath proud hulls and pompous clouds of sail,
By yellow beaches under lispig leaves
And hidden nooks to Youth and Beauty dear,
And where the ear may catch the counter-voice
Of Ocean travelling over far blue tracts.

Moreover, when the moon is gazing down
Upon her lovely reflex in the wave
(What time she, sitting in the Zenith makes
A silver silence over stirless woods),
Then, where its echoes start at sudden bells,
And where its waters gleam with flying light,

The haven lies, in all its beauty clad,
More lovely even than the golden lakes
The poet saw, while dreaming splendid dreams
Which showed his soul the fair Hesperides.

A BIRTHDAY TRIFLE

HERE in this gold-green evening end,
While air is soft and sky is clear,
What tender message shall I send
To her I hold so dear ?
What rose of song with breath like myrrh,
And leaf of dew and fair pure beams
Shall I select and give to her—
The lady of my dreams ?

Alas ! the blossom I would take,
The song as sweet as Persian speech,
And carry for my lady's sake,
Is not within my reach.
I have no perfect gift of words,
Or I would hasten now to send
A ballad full of tunes of birds
To please my lovely friend.

But this pure pleasure is my own,
That I have power to waft away
A hope as bright as heaven's zone
On this her natal day.
May all her life be like the light
That softens down in spheres divine,
As lovely as a Lapland night,
All grace and chastened shine !

SYDNEY EXHIBITION CANTATA

PART I

Chorus

SONGS of morning, with your breath
Sing the darkness now to death ;
Radiant river, beaming bay,
Fair as Summer, shine to-day ;
Flying torrent, falling slope,
Wear the face as bright as Hope ;
Wind and woodland, hill and sea,
Lift your voices—sing for glee !
Greet the guests your fame has won—
Put your brightest garments on:

Recitative and Chorus

Lo, they come—the lords unknown,
Sons of Peace, from every zone !
See above our waves unfurled
All the flags of all the world !
North and south and west and east
Gather in to grace our Feast.

Shining nations ! let them see
 How like England we can be.
 Mighty nations ! let them view
 Sons of generous sires in you.

Solo—Tenor

By the days that sound afar,
 Sound, and shine like star by star ;
 By the grand old years aflame
 With the fires of England's fame—
 Heirs of those who fought for right
 When the world's wronged face was white—
 Meet these guests your fortune sends,
 As your fathers met their friends ;
 Let the beauty of your race
 Glow like morning in your face.

PART II

Solo—Bass

Where now a radiant city stands,
 The dark oak used to wave,
 The Elfin harp of lonely lands
 Above the wild man's grave ;
 Through windless woods, one clear, sweet stream
 (Sing soft and very low)
 Stole like the river of a dream
 A hundred years ago.

Solo—Alto

Upon the hills that blaze to-day
 With splendid dome and spire,
 The naked hunter tracked his prey,
 And slumbered by his fire.
 Within the sound of shipless seas
 The wild rose used to blow
 About the feet of royal trees,
 A hundred years ago.

Solo—Soprano

Ah! haply on some mossy slope,
 Against the shining springs,
 In those old days the angel Hope
 Sat down with folded wings ;
 Perhaps she touched in dreams sublime,
 In glory and in glow,
 The skirts of this resplendent time,
 A hundred years ago.

PART III

Children

A gracious morning on the hills of wet
 And wind and mist her glittering feet has set ;
 The life and heat of light have chased away
 Australia's dark mysterious yesterday.
 A great, glad glory now flows down and shines
 On gold green lands where waved funereal pines.

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Solo—Soprano

And hence a fair dream goes before our gaze,
And lifts the skirts of the hereafter days,
And sees afar, as dreams alone can see,
The splendid marvel of the years to be.

PART IV

Basses and Chorus

Father, All-Bountiful, humbly we bend to Thee ;
Heads are uncovered in sight of Thy face.
Here, in the flow of the Psalms that ascend to Thee,
Teach us to live for the light of Thy grace.
Here, in the pause of the anthems of praise to Thee,
Master and Maker—pre-eminent Friend—
Teach us to look to Thee—give all our days to Thee,
Now and for evermore, world without end !

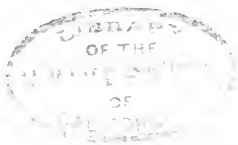
OUTRE MER

I SEE, as one in dreaming,
A broad, bright, quiet sea ;
Beyond it lies a haven—
The only home for me.
Some men grow strong with trouble,
But all my strength is past,
And tired and full of sorrow,
I long to sleep at last.
By force of chance and changes
Man's life is hard at best ;
And, seeing rest is voiceless,
The dearest thing is rest:

Beyond the sea—behold it,
The home I wish to seek,
The refuge of the weary,
The solace of the weak !
Sweet angel fingers beckon,
Sweet angel voices ask
My soul to cross the waters ;
And yet I dread the task.

God help the man whose trials
Are tares that he must reap!
He cannot face the future—
His only hope is sleep.

Across the main a vision
Of sunset coasts, and skies,
And widths of waters gleaming,
Enchant my human eyes:
I, who have sinned and suffered,
Have sought—with tears have sought—
To rule my life with goodness,
And shape it to my thought.
And yet there is no refuge
To shield me from distress,
Except the realm of slumber
And great forgetfulness.







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