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EDITED BY JUSTIN WINSOR,

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No. 30.



SHELLEY'S SKYLARK,

A FACSIMILE OF THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT,

WITH A NOTE ON OTHER MANUSCRIPTS OF SHELLEY,

IN HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.:

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1888.

Already issued or in preparation:

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VOL. II.

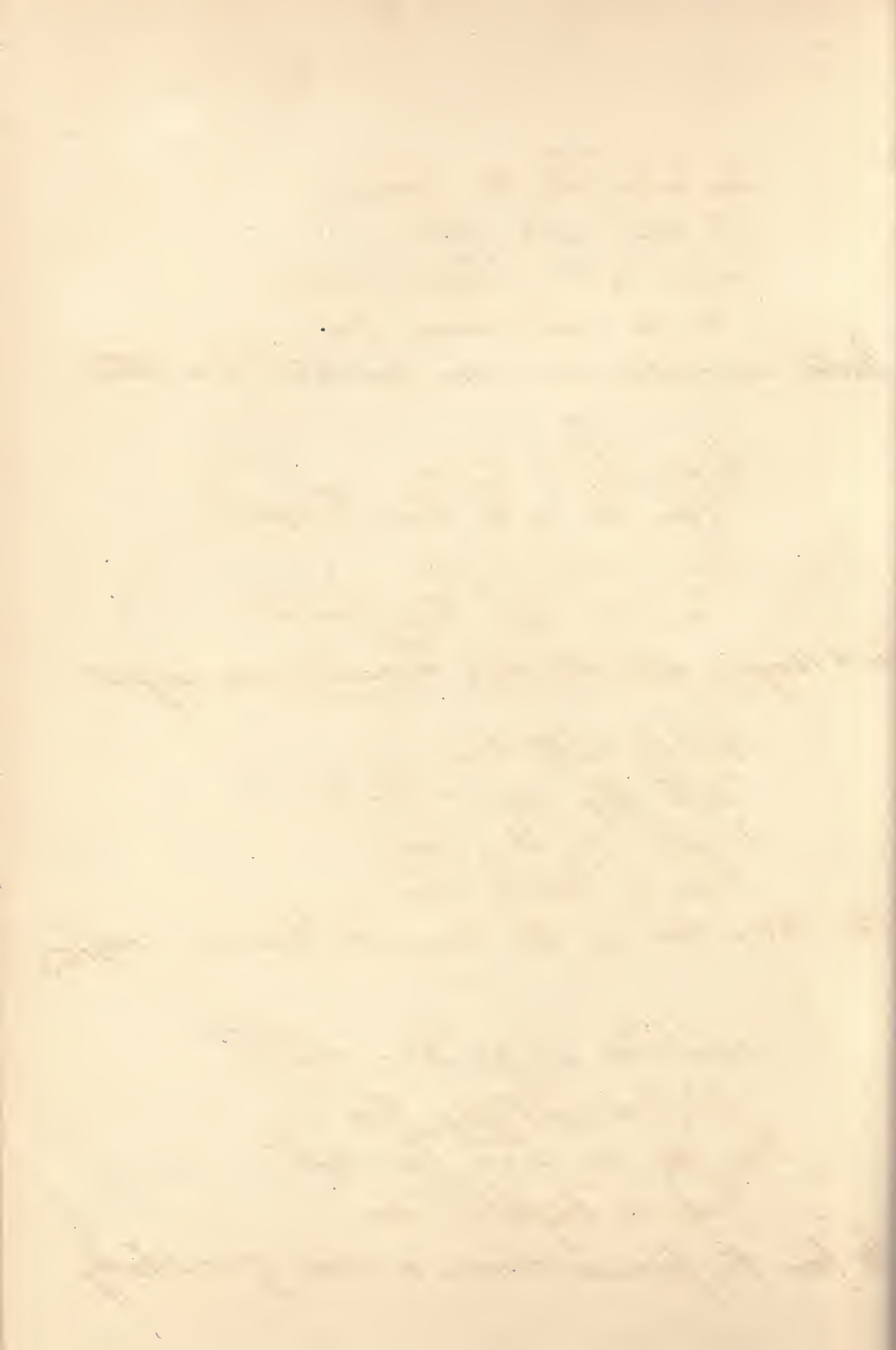
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30. SHELLEY'S "SKYLARK," a Facsimile of the original manuscript.

To ^a Sky-Lark

Hail to thee ~~blithe~~ spirit!
Prize thou never wast;
That from the air, or over it,
Downest thy full heart
In ~~prose~~ ^{poetry} strains of unpremeditated art. — insert

In the golden brightening
Of the sunken sun —
O'er ~~which~~ ^{show} clouds are brightening
That ~~float~~ ^{float} & run;
Like an unbodied joy whose race is just begun.

The pale purple even
Melts around thy flight,
Like a star of heaven
In the broad daylight
Thou art unseen, — but yet I hear thy ~~blithe~~ ^{shrill}
delight



(18)

Keen as are
~~the notes, like~~ the snows
 Of that silver sphere,
 Whose intence lamp narrows
 In the white dawn clear
 What we hardly see — we feel that it is there;

2
 Higher still & higher
 From the earth thou springest
 Like a cloud of fire
 The blue deep thou wingest
 And singing still dost soar, & soaring ever wingest

All the earth & air —
 With thy voice is loud,
 As when Night is bare
 From one lonely cloud
 The moon rains out her beams & Heaven is overflown

What then art we know not
 What is most like thee?
 From ~~the~~ ^{of clouds} rain is no, thou not —
 Drops so bright to see
 All from thy presence showers a rain of melody



21
Like a poet hidden
By the light of thought,
Singing hymns unbidden
Till the world is awaught
To sympathy with hopes & fears it heeds not -

Like a high-born maiden
In a palace tower,
With her soul's love laden
Loathing her secret form,
Which
Holds music which is love - & which has power
(Sweet as)

Like a glow-worm golden
In a dell of dew
Scattering unbeckoned
Its aerial tune
Among the flowers & grass which screen it from
the view

Like a rose embowered
In its own green leaves -
By ^{warm} winds deflowered -
Till the scent it gives
Makes faint with too much sweet the heavy-winged bees



sound of several choruses
 In the trembling grass, the
 rain-awakened flowers, or
 all that was was
 Joyous & clear & fresh, they music doth surpass.

- each us, Sprites or Kind
 What sweet thoughts are there;
 I have never heard
 Praise of love or wine
 That pants forth a flood ofapture so divine:

Chorus Hymenial
 or triumphal chaunt
 Matches with them, would be all
 But an empty vaunt.
 A thing wherein we feel there is some hidden
 want

What depths do the fountains
 Of thy ^{happy} ~~charismatic~~ stream
 What fields or rivers or mountains?
 What shapes of sky or plain?
 What love of them or kind? What ignorance
 of pain?



With thy dear kin joy and
 Language cannot be -
 Shadow of annoyance
 Never came near thy
 Pleas' heart - but we know love's sad satiety;

Working or asleep
 Thou of death's must dream,
 Things more true & deep
 Than we mortals dream
 Or how could thy notes flow in such a crystal
 Stream?

We look before & after
 And pine for what is not,
 Our sincerest laughter
 With some pain is fraught
 Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought.

Yet if we could scorn
 Hate & pride & fear;
 If we were things so born
 Not to shed a tear
 I know not how they joy we even should ever see



105
Better than all measures

Of delightful sound -

Better than all treasures

That in books are found -

By skill to poet wear than tower of the ground

It teach me half the gladness

That thy brain must know

Such ^{the} harmonious madness

From my lips should flow

As with spirit in ten thou - as I am writing now

EDITORIAL NOTE.

The book of Shelley's poems, containing a number of autographic copies (with others in the script of Mrs. Shelley), and from which the accompanying facsimiles were made, has recently been given to Harvard College library by Mr. Edward A. Silsbee, who procured the memorial some years ago from a lady in Florence, who had been of Shelley's acquaintance. The book is a thin quarto, bound in parchment. The earlier leaves have been cut out. The following is a collation of what is remaining:—

Page 47. *The Sensitive Plant*, marked as "published." In Shelley's handwriting. Occasionally corrected in ink and lead pencil. Stanza marked 17 of third part erased. Ends on p. 60. "Pisa, March, 1820."

Page 61. *A Vision of the Sea*. "Published." In Mrs. Shelley's handwriting. Ends on p. 68. At end in Shelley's script, "Pisa, April, 1820."

Page 69. *To Night*. In Mrs. Shelley's hand. Ends on p. 70.

Page 71. *An Anacreontic*. In Shelley's hand. "Florence, January, 1820."

Pages 72-75, missing.

Page 76. *An Exhortation*. "Published." In Shelley's hand. Corrected. Ends on p. 77. "Pisa, April, 1820."

Page 78. *Ode to Heaven*. In Shelley's hand. Corrected. Ends on p. 80. "Florence, December, 1819."

Page 81. *Song*. In Mrs. Shelley's hand. Ends on p. 83. Dated by Shelley, "Pisa, May, 1820."

Page 84. *A Dream*. In Mrs. Shelley's hand. Ends on p. 86.

Page 87. *Ode to Liberty*. In Shelley's hand. Erased.

Pages 88, 89, missing.

Page 90. *The Indian Serenade*. In Shelley's hand.

Page 91. *Song*. In Shelley's hand. Ends at top of p. 92.

Page 92. *To William* —. In Shelley's hand. Ends at top of p. 93.

Pages 94-97, missing; 98, 99, blank.

Page 100. *To a Skylark*. In Shelley's hand. Ends on p. 105. Facsimile given herewith. It will be observed that the manuscript has some variations from the usual printed copies of the poem, as in the second stanza, "unbodied joy" for "embodied joy."

Pages 106-109, torn out, except a small part of each.

Page 109 (duplicate). *Hymn to Mercury. Translated from the Greek of Homer*. In Mrs. Shelley's hand. Ends on p. 145. Some of the pages not numbered.

Page 145 (duplicate). *To the Lord Chancellor*. In Shelley's hand. Many corrections and erasures. Ends on p. 148.

Page 149. *England*. In Shelley's hand. Ends at top of p. 150.

Page 150. *Song* ("Good night"). In Shelley's hand.

Page 151. *Sonnet* ("Ye hasten to the dead!"). In a hand different from the others.

Page 152. *Sonnet. To the Republic of Benevento*. In Shelley's hand.

Page 153. *Ballad* ("Young Parson Richards"). In Mrs. Shelley's hand, with corrections by Shelley. Ends on p. 158.

Page 159. *Contents*, which end on the inside of the opposite cover.

This index shows the following poems on leaves which have disappeared from the book: "Maddalo and Julian, 1."; "The masque of anarchy, 30"; "To S th and C gh, 38"; "E d, 39"; "An ode, 40"; "Translation from Moschus, 42"; "A Fragment, 43"; "Lines written at Naples, 72"; "Sonnet, 75"; (The contents of pp. 88-90 are not given); "To —, a sonnet, 106"; "Men of England, a song"; "To —, 109"; page 145 is indexed "To L . . . d E . . . n."

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