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Rennell, James Rennell Rodd, baron

SONGS IN THE SOUTH

BY

RENNELL RODD, *pseud.*



LONDON

DAVID BOGUE

3, ST. MARTIN'S PLACE, TRAFALGAR SQUARE

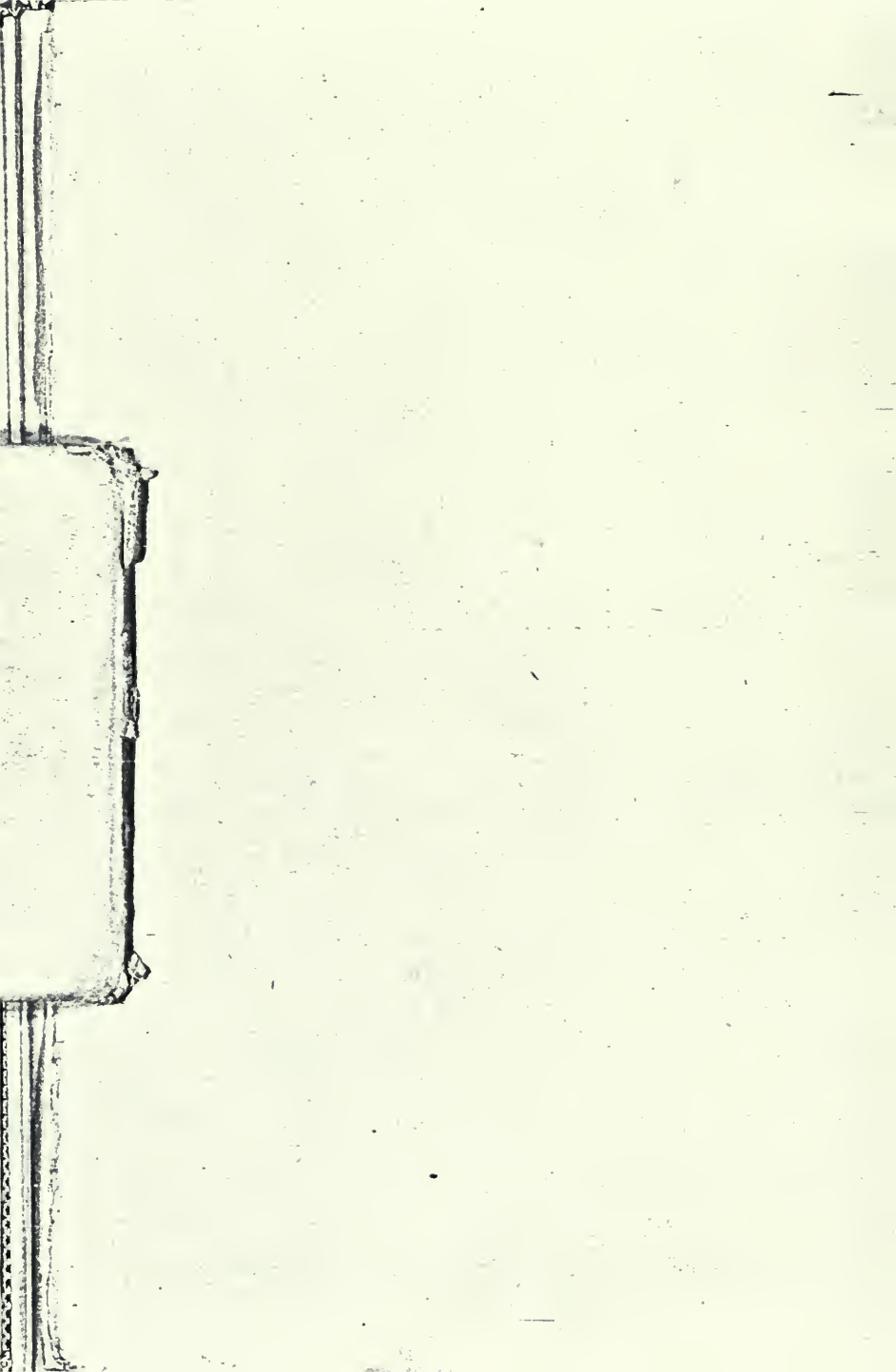
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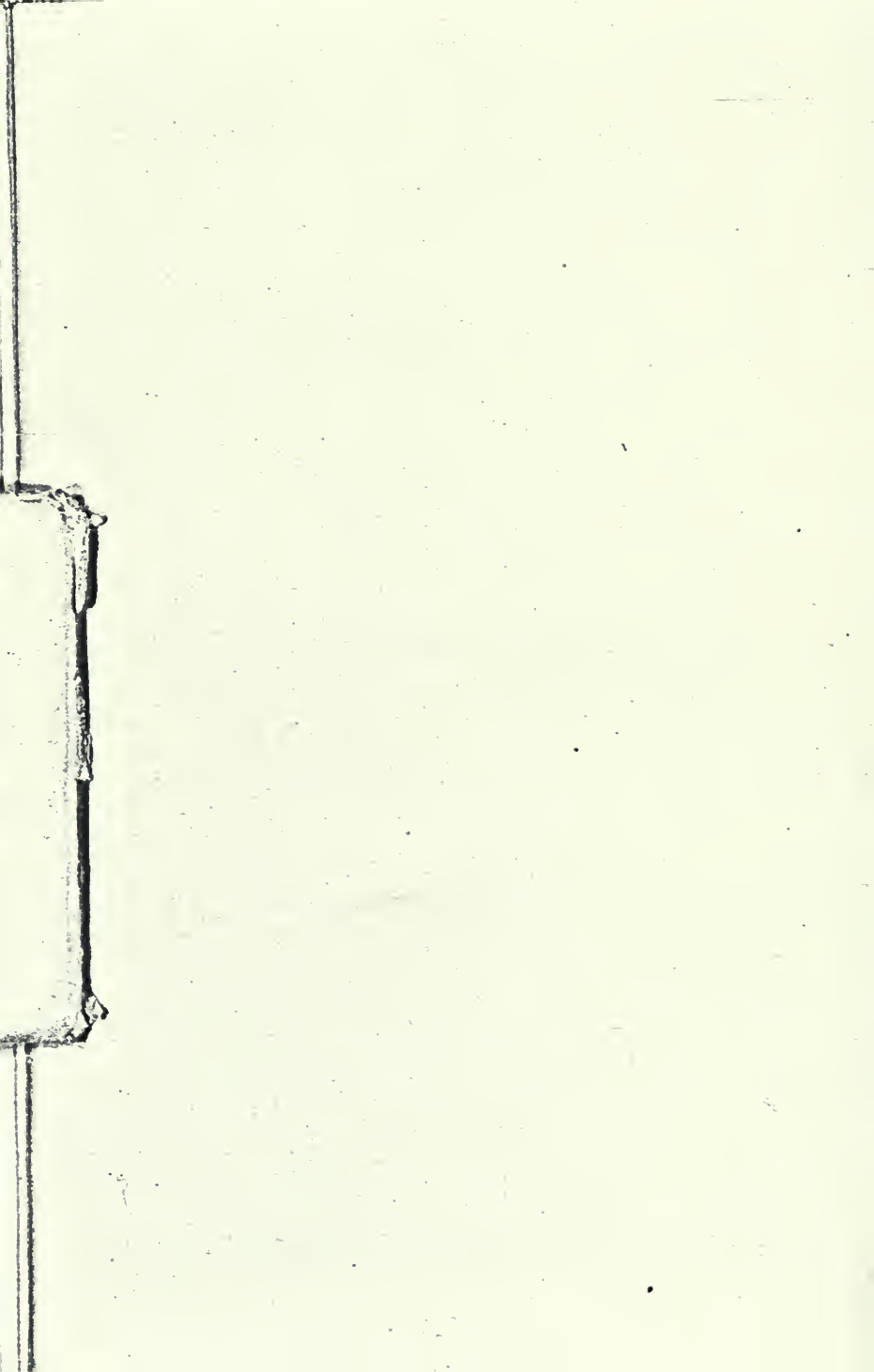
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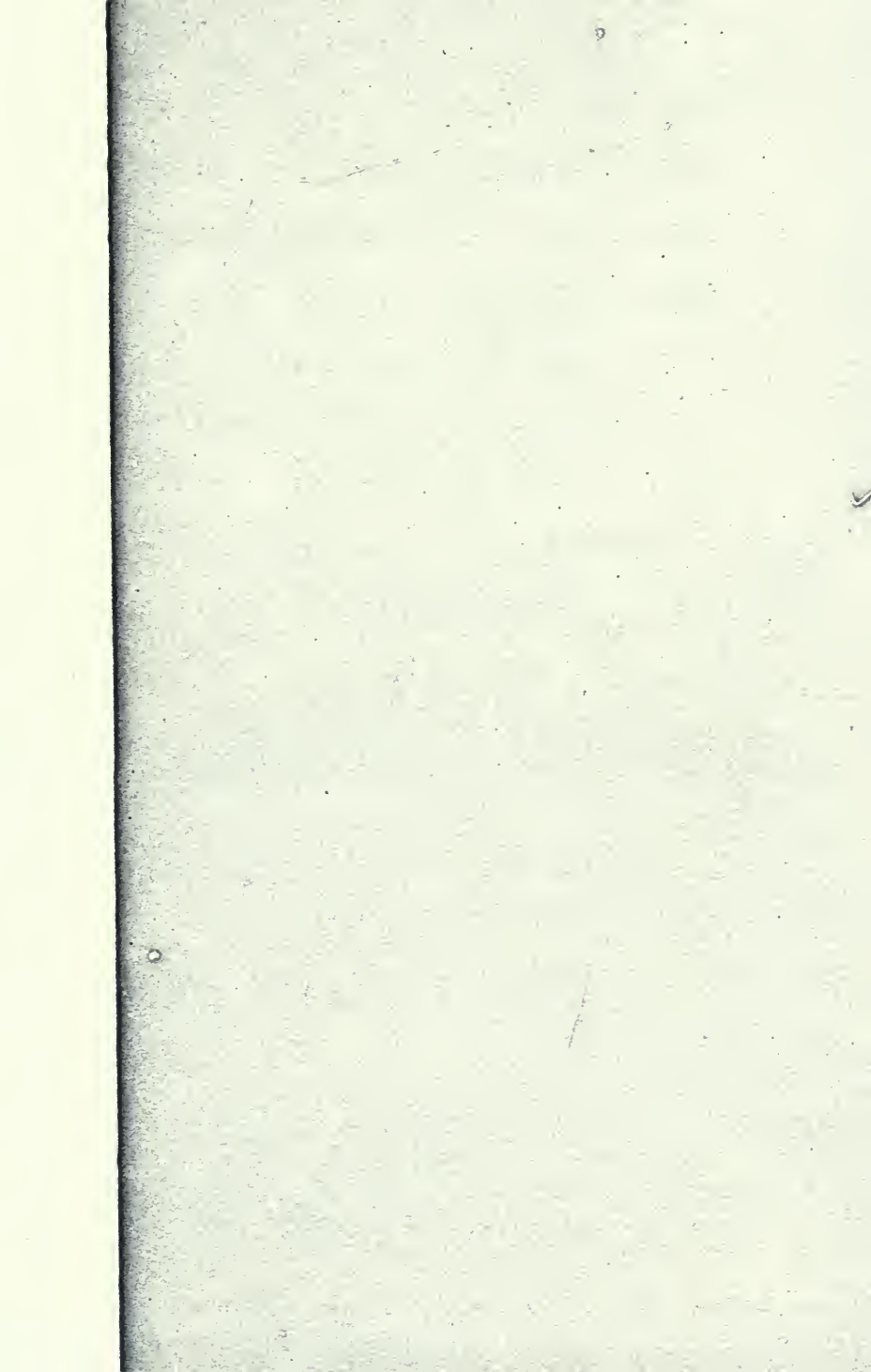
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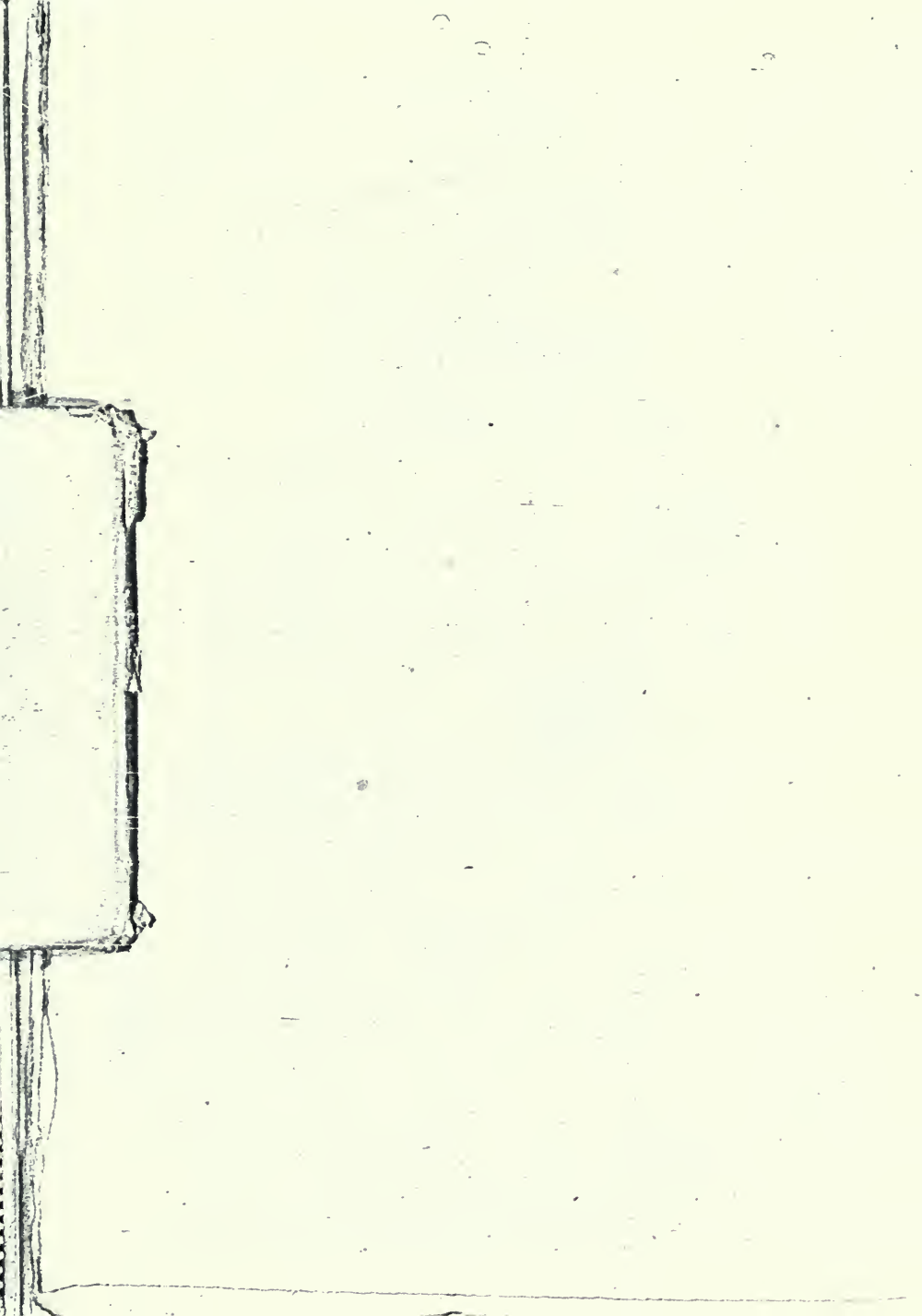
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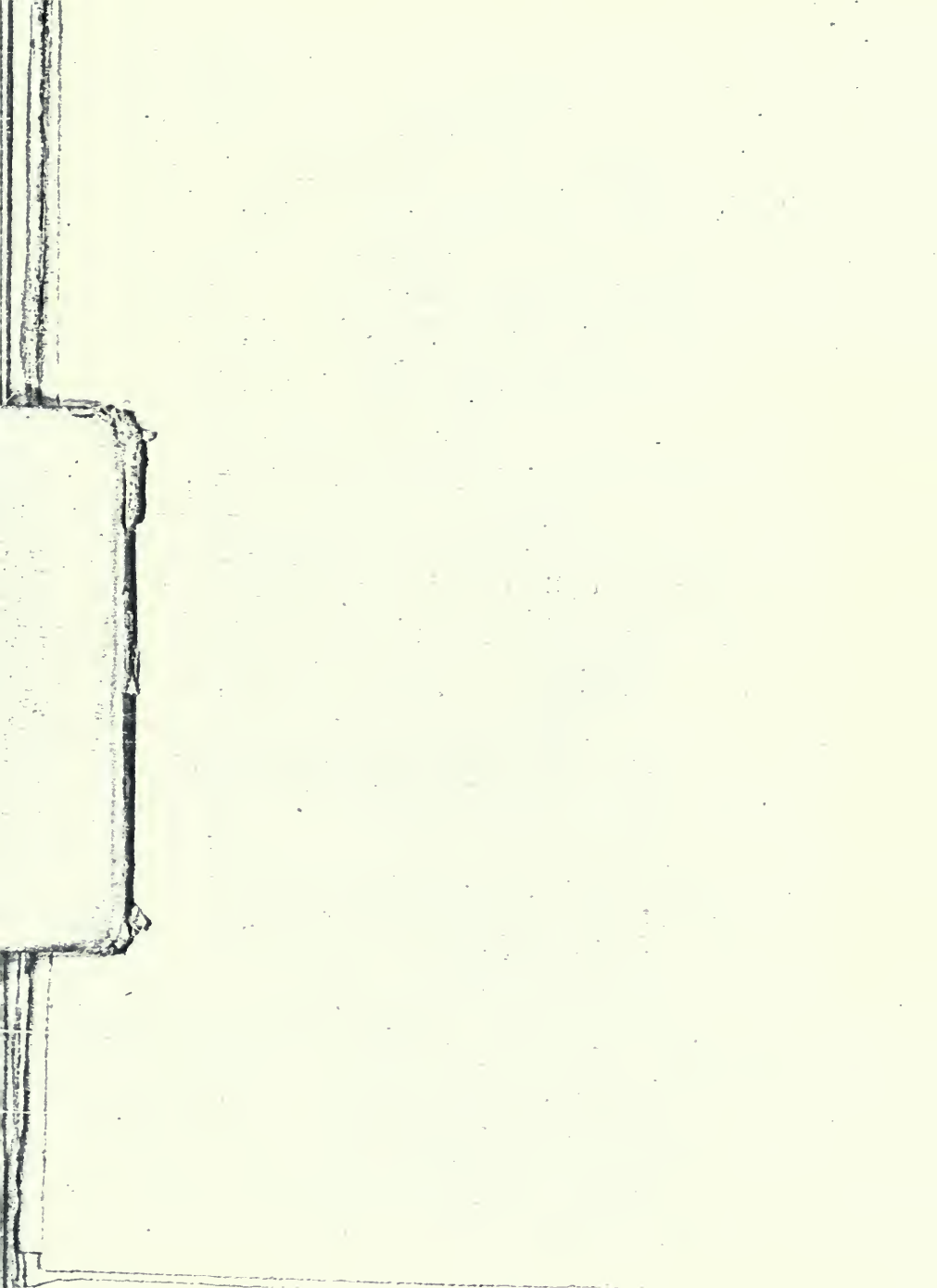
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SONGS IN THE SOUTH.





FROM THE HILL OF GARDENS.

THE outline of a shadowy city spread  
Between the garden and the distant hill—  
And o'er yon dome the flame-ring lingers still,  
Set like the glory on an angel's head :  
The light fades quivering into evening blue  
Behind the pine-tops on Ianiculum ;  
The swallow whispered to the swallow " come !"  
And took the sunset on her wings, and flew.

One rift of cloud the wind caught up suspending  
A ruby path between the earth and sky ;  
Those shreds of gold are angel wings ascending  
From where the sorrows of our singers lie ;  
They have not found those wandering spirits yet,  
But seek for ever in the red sunset.

Pass upward angel wings ! Seek not for these,  
They sit not in the cypress-planted graves ;  
Their spirits wander over moonlit waves,  
And sing in all the singing of the seas ;

And by green places in the spring-tide showers,  
And in the re-awakening of flowers.

Some pearl-lipped shell still dewy with sea foam  
Bear back to whisper where their feet have trod ;  
They are the earth's for ever more ; fly home !  
And lay a daisy at the feet of God.



## IN THE COLISEUM.

NIGHT wanes ; I sit in the ruin alone ;  
 Beneath, the shadow of arches falls  
 From the dim outline of the broken walls ;  
 And the half-light steals o'er the age-worn stone  
 From a midway arch where the moon looks through,  
 A silver shield in the deep deep blue.

This is the hour of ghosts that rise ;  
 —Line on line of the noiseless dead—  
 The clouds above are their awning spread ;  
 Look into the shadow with moon-dazed eyes,  
 You will see the writhing of limbs in pain,  
 And the whole red tragedy over again.

The ghostly galleys ride out and meet,  
 The Cæsar sits in his golden chair,  
 His fingers toy with his women's hair,  
 The water is blood-red under his feet,—  
 Till the owl's long cry dies down with the night,  
 And one star waits for the dawning light.

## AT TIBER MOUTH.

THE low plains stretch to the west with a glimmer of  
rustling weeds,  
Where the waves of a golden river wind home by the  
marshy meads ;  
And the strong wind born of the sea grows faint with a  
sickly breath,  
As it stays in the fretting rushes and blows on the dews  
of death.  
We came to the silent city, in the glare of the noontide heat,  
When the sound of a whisper rang through the length of  
the lonely street ;  
No tree in the clefted ruin, no echo of song nor sound,  
But the dust of a world forgotten lay under the barren  
ground.  
There are shrines under these green hillocks to the beau-  
tiful gods that sleep,  
Where they prayed in the stormy season for lives gone  
out on the deep ;  
And here in the grave street sculptured, old record of  
loves and tears,

By the dust of the nameless slave, forgotten a thousand  
years.

Not ever again at even shall ship sail in on the breeze,  
Where the hulls of their gilded galleys came home from a  
hundred seas,

For the marsh plants grow in her haven, the marsh birds  
breed in her bay,

And a mile to the shoreless westward the water has  
passed away.

But the sea-folk gathering rushes come up from the  
windy shore,

So the song that the years have silenced grows musical  
there once more ;

And now and again unburied, like some still voice from  
the dead,

They light on the fallen shoulder and the lines of a  
marble head.

But we went from the sorrowful city and wandered away  
at will,

And thought of the breathing marble and the words that  
are music still.

How full were their lives that laboured, in their fetterless  
strength and far

From the ways that our feet have chosen as the sunlight  
is from the star,

They clung to the chance and promise that once while  
the years are free

Look over our life's horizon as the sun looks over the sea,  
But we wait for a day that dawns not, and cry for un-  
clouded skies,  
And while we are deep in dreaming the light that was  
o'er us dies ;  
We know not what of the present we shall stretch out our  
hand to save  
Who sing of the life we long for, and not of the life we  
have ;  
And yet if the chance were with us to gather the days  
misspent,  
Should we change the old resting-places, the wandering  
ways we went ?  
They were strong, but the years are stronger; they are  
grown but a name that thrills,  
And the wreck of their marble glory lies ghost-like over  
their hills.  
So a shadow fell o'er our dreaming for the weary heart of  
the past,  
For the seed that the years have scattered, to reap so  
little at last.

And we went to the sea-shore forest, through a long  
colonnade of pines,  
Where the skies peep in and the sea, with a flitting of  
silver lines.

And we came on an open place in the green deep heart of  
the wood  
Where I think in the years forgotten an altar of Faunus  
stood ;  
From a spring in the long dark grasses two rivulets rise  
and run  
By the length of their sandy borders where the snake lies  
coiled in the sun.  
And the stars of the white narcissus lie over the grass  
like snow,  
And beyond in the shadowy places the crimson cyclamens  
grow ;  
Far up from their wave home yonder the sea-winds mur-  
muring pass,  
The branches quiver and creak and the lizard starts in  
the grass.  
And we lay in the untrod moss and pillowed our cheeks  
with flowers,  
While the sun went over our heads, and we took no count  
of the hours ;  
From the end of the waving branches and under the  
cloudless blue  
Like sunbeams chained for a banner the threadlike gos-  
samers flew.  
And the joy of the woods came o'er us and we felt that  
our world was young  
With the gladness of years unspent and the sorrow of life  
unsung.



So we passed with a sound of singing along to the sea-  
ward way,  
Where the sails of the fishermen folk came homeward  
over the bay ;  
For a cloud grew over the forest and darkened the sea-  
god's shrine,  
And the hills of the silent city were only a ruby line.  
But the sun stood still on the waves as we passed from the  
fading shores,  
And shone on our boat's red bulwarks and the golden  
blades of the oars,  
And it seemed as we steered for the sunset that we  
passed through a twilight sea,  
From the gloom of a world forgotten to the light of a  
world to be.

Rome, 1881.



## A ROMAN MIRROR.

THEY found it in her hollow marble bed,  
There where the numberless dead cities sleep,  
They found it lying where the spade struck deep,  
A broken mirror by a maiden dead.

These things—the beads she wore about her throat  
Alternate blue and amber all untied,  
A lamp to light her way, and on one side  
The toll men pay to that strange ferry-boat.

No trace to-day of what in her was fair !  
Only the record of long years grown green  
Upon the mirror's lustreless dead sheen,  
Grown dim at last, when all else withered there.

Dead, broken, lustreless ! It keeps for me  
One picture of that immemorial land,  
For oft as I have held thee in my hand  
The dull bronze brightens, and I dream to see

A fair face gazing in thee wondering wise,  
And o'er one marble shoulder all the while  
Strange lips that whisper till her own lips smile,  
And all the mirror laughs about her eyes.

It was well thought to set thee there, so she  
Might smooth the windy ripples of her hair  
And knot their tangled waywardness, or ere  
She stood before the queen Persephone.

And still it may be where the dead folk rest,  
She holds a shadowy mirror to her eyes,  
And looks upon the changelessness, and sighs  
And sets the dead land lilies in her breast.

1879.



## BY THE SOUTH SEA.

SO here we have sat by the sea so late,  
And you with your dreaming eyes  
Have argued well what I know you hate,  
Till even my own dream dies.

Yet why will you smile at my old white years  
When love was a gift divine,  
When songs were laughter and hope and tears,  
And art was a people's shrine?

Must I change the burdens I loved to sing,  
The words of my worn-out song?  
The old fair thoughts have a hollow ring,  
My faiths have been dead so long.

And yet,—to have known that one did not know!  
To have dreamed with the poet priest!  
To have hope to feel that it might be so!  
And theirs was a faith at least,

When the priest was poet, and hearts were fain  
Of marvellous things to dream,  
To see God's tears in a cloud of rain,  
And his hair on a gold sunbeam ;

To know that the sons of the old Sea King  
Roamed under their waves at will,  
To have heard a song that the wood gods sing  
On the other side of the hill !

And so I had held it,—for all things blend  
In the world's great harmony,—  
That they served an end to an after-end,  
And were of the things that be.

But now ye are bidding *your* God god-speed  
With his lore upon dusty shelves ;  
So wise ye are grown, ye have found no need  
For any god but yourselves.

Ye have learnt the riddle of seas and sand,  
Of leaves in the spring uncurled ;  
There is no room left for my wonderland  
In the whole of the great wide world.

And what have ye left for a song to say ?  
What now is a singer's fame ?  
He may startle the ear with a word one day,  
And die,—and live in a name.

But the world has heed unto no fair thing,  
Men pass on their soulless ways,  
They give no faith unto those who sing,  
—Give hardly a heartless praise.

But you say, Let us go unto all wide lands,  
Let us speak to the people's heart !  
Let us make good use of our lips and hands,  
There is hope for the world in art !

Will the dull ears hear, will the dead souls see ?  
Will they know what we hardly know ?  
The chords of the wonderful harmony  
Of the earth and the skies?—if so—

We have talked too long till it all seems vain,—  
The desire and the hopes that fired,  
The triumphs won and the meedless pain,  
And the heart that has hoped is tired.

Do you see down there where the high cliffs shrink,  
And the ripples break on the bay,  
Our old sea boat at the white foam brink  
With the sail slackened down half-way ?

Shall we get hence ? O fair heart's brother !  
You are weary at heart with me,  
We two alone in the world, no other :  
Shall we go to our wide kind sea ?

*BY THE SOUTH SEA.*

Shall we glide away in this white moon's track?  
Does it not seem fair in your eyes!  
—To drift and drift with our white sail black  
In the dreamful light of the skies,

Till the pale stars die, and some far fair shore  
Comes up through the morning haze,  
And wandering hearts shall not wander more  
Far off from the mad world's ways.

Or still more fair—when the dim scared night  
Grows pale from the east to the west—  
If the waters gather us home, and the light  
Break through on the waves' unrest,

And there in the gleam of the gold-washed sea,  
Which the smile of the morning brings,  
Our souls shall fathom the mystery,  
And the riddle of all these things.

## IN A CHURCH.

**T**HIS was the first shrine lit for Queen Marie ;  
And I will sit a little at her feet,  
For winds without howl down the narrow street  
And storm-clouds gather from the westward sea.

Sweet here to watch the peasant people pray,  
While through the crimson-shrouded window falls  
Low light of even, and the golden walls  
Grow dim and dreamful at the end of day,

Till from these columns fades their marble sheen,  
And lines grow soft and mystical,—these wraiths  
That watch the service of the changing faiths,  
To Mary mother from the Cyprian queen.

But aye for me this old-world colonnade  
Seems open to blue summer skies once more,  
These altars pass, and on the polished floor  
I see the lines of chequered light and shade ;



I seem to see the dark-browed Lybian lean  
To cool the tortured burning of the lash,  
I see the fountains as they leap and flash,  
The rustling sway of cypress set between.

And now yon friar with the bare feet there,  
Is grown the haunting spirit of the place ;  
Ah ! brown-robed friar with the shaven face,  
The saints are weary of thy mumbled prayer.

From matins' bell to the slow day's decline  
He sits and thumbs his endless round of beads,  
Drawls out the dreary cadence of his creeds  
And nods assent to each familiar line.

But she the goddess whose white star is set,  
Whose fane was pillaged for this sombre shrine,  
Could she look down upon those lips of thine,  
And hear thee mutter, would she still regret ?

There came a sound of singing on my ear,  
And slowly glided through the far-off door,  
A glimmer of grey forms like ghosts, they bore  
A dead man lying on his purple bier.

Some poor man's soul, so little candle smoke  
Went curling upwards by the uncased shroud,  
And then a sudden thunder-clap broke loud,  
And drowned the droning of the priest who spoke.

So all the shuffling feet passed out again  
To lightnings flashing through the wet and wind,  
And while I lingered in the gate behind  
The dead man travelled through the storm and rain.

ROME, 1881.



## AT LANUVIUM.

*"Festo quid potius die  
Neptuni faciam."*

HORACE, *Odes*, iii. 28.

SPRING grew to perfect summer in one day,  
And we lay there among the vines, to gaze  
Where Circe's isle floats purple, far away  
Above the golden haze :

And on our ears there seemed to rise and fall  
The burden of an old world song we knew,  
That sang, "To-day is Neptune's festival,  
And we, what shall we do?"

Go down brown-armed Campagna maid of mine,  
And bring again the earthen jar that lies  
With three years' dust above the mellow wine ;  
And while the swift day dies,

You first shall sing a song of waters blue,  
Paphos and Cnidos in the summer seas,  
And one who guides her swan-drawn chariot through  
The white-shored Cyclades ;

And I will take the second turn of song,  
Of floating tresses in the foam and surge  
Where Nereid maids about the sea-god throng;  
And night shall have her dirge.

1881.



## LUCCIOLE.

*(To the author of "Pascarel.")*

FOLLOW where the night-fire leads  
 Of the wingèd Lucciolá,  
 Where through waving river weeds  
 Water mirrors wreathed in reeds  
 Catch its glimmer from afar ;

Where the falling water plays,  
 Up the hillside, higher, higher,  
 In the pathless forest ways  
 Every branch is in a blaze,  
 With its tiny lamps of fire.

Are they fairies that have flown,  
 Stealing glamour from a star,  
 Flitting where wild weeds o'ergrown  
 Keep the forest all their own ?  
 Tell me of the Lucciolá.

Love they are as we to-night  
 In the branches tossed above ;

Only longing in their flight  
That the moon and stars be bright,  
And the night be long for love.

Once the Love-God seemed to sorrow  
For the tears that he had cost ;  
—Lending love to those who borrow,  
But to lose him on the morrow ;—  
For the labour he had lost.

Fretting more that true love's sighs  
Go forgotten with the rest,  
Fretting that his best work dies,  
All the longing of the eyes,  
And the thrill from breast to breast.

He, of all good things the giver,  
Love, gave lovers this fair thing ;  
That their vows should live for ever,  
In the lights that glance and quiver,  
Through the summer night and spring ;

So that loves that rest unbroken  
Evermore recorded are,  
Every word of passion spoken,  
Every love-song has its token,  
Living in the Lucciola.

## "IF ANY ONE RETURN."

I WOULD we had carried him far away  
To the light of this south sun land,  
Where the hills lean down to some red-rocked bay  
And the sea's blue breaks into snow-white spray  
As the wave dies out on the sand.

Not there, not there, where the winds deface !  
Where the storm and the cloud race by !  
But far away in this flowerful place  
Where endless summers retouch, retrace,  
What flowers find heart to die.

And if ever the souls of the loved, set free,  
Come back to the souls that stay,  
I could dream he would sit for awhile with me  
Where I sit by this wonderful tideless sea  
And look to the red-rocked bay,

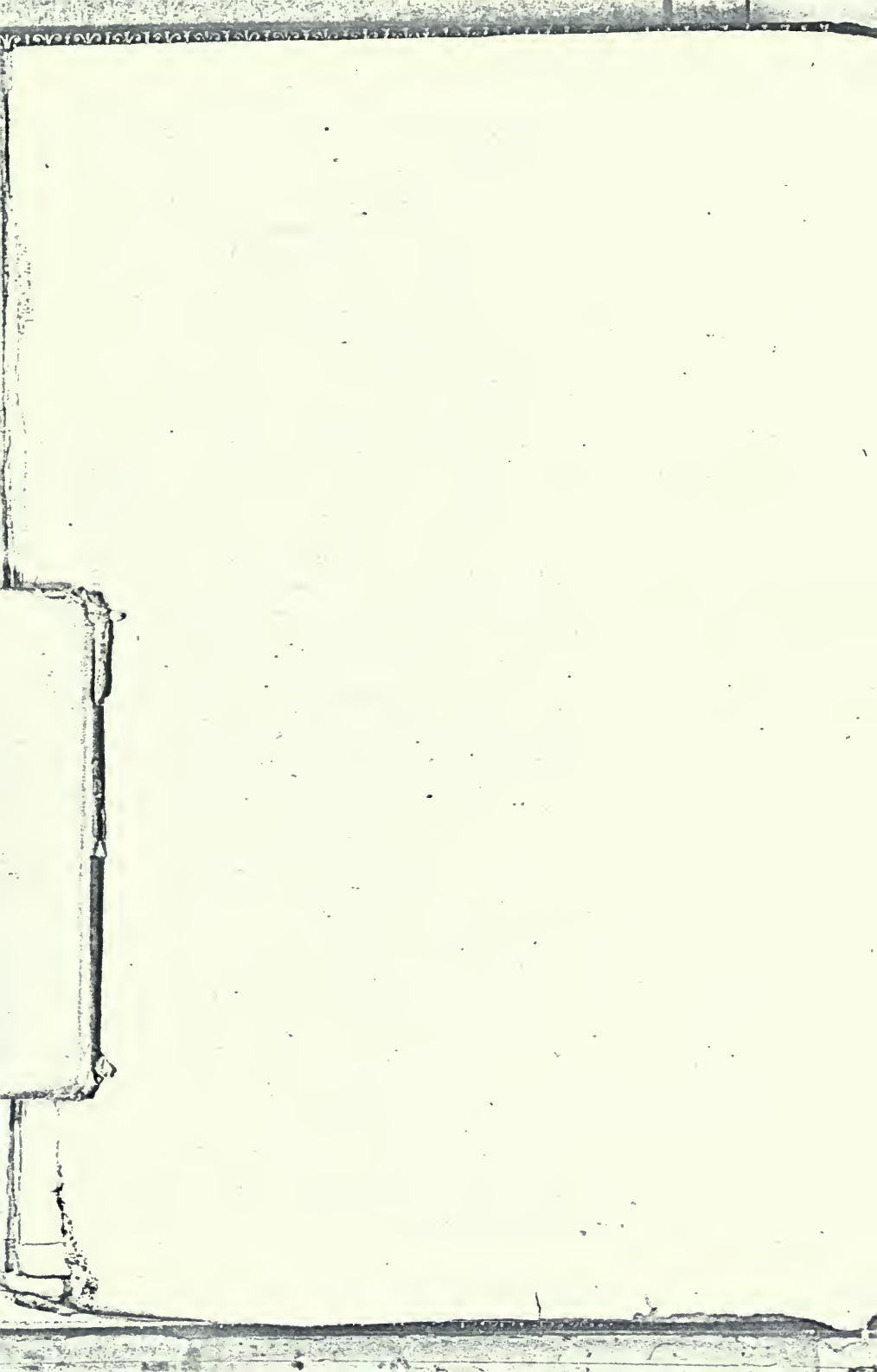
By the high cliff's edge where the wild weeds twine,  
And he would not speak or move,  
But his eyes would gaze from his soul at mine,  
My eyes that would answer without one sign,  
And that were enough for love.

And I think I should feel as the sun went round  
That he was not there any more,  
But dews were wet on the grass-grown mound  
On the bed of my love lying underground,  
And evening pale on the shore.

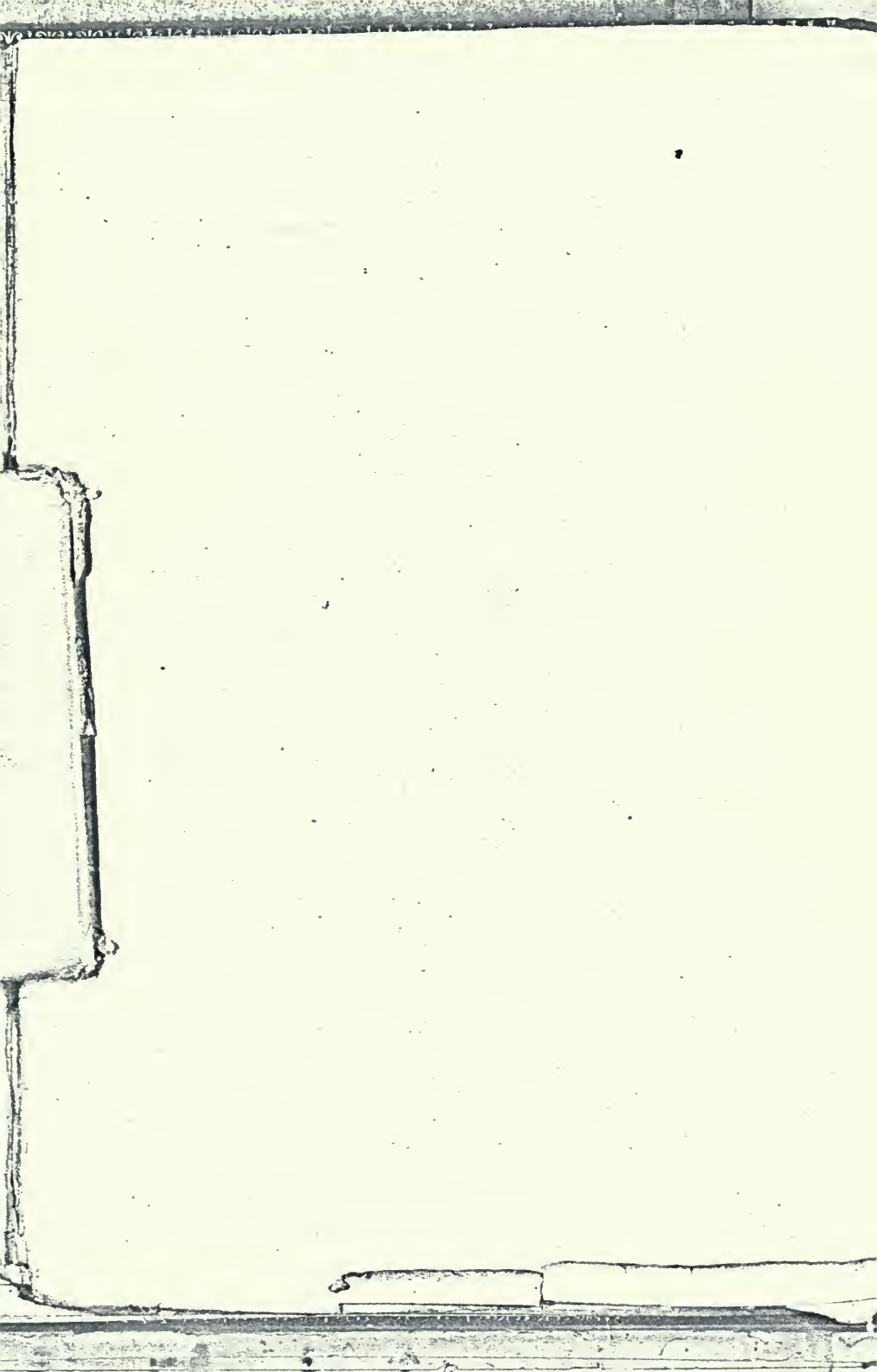
1879.







SONNETS.



“UNE HEURE VIENDRA QUI TOUT PAIERA.”

**I**T was a tomb in Flanders, old and grey,  
 A knight in armour, lying dead, unknown  
 Among the long-forgotten, yet the stone  
 Cried out for vengeance where the dead man lay ;

No name was chiselled at his side to say  
 What wrongs his spirit thirsted to atone,  
 Only the armour with green moss o'ergrown,  
 And those grim words no years had worn away.

It may be haply in the songs of old  
 His deeds were wonders to sweet music set,  
 His name the thunder of a battle call,  
 Among the things forgotten and untold ;  
 His only record is the dead man's threat,—  
 “An hour will come that shall atone for all !”



## ALTHEA.

**W**HEN the last bitterness was past, she bore  
 Her singing Cæsar to the Garden Hill,  
 Her fallen pitiful dead emperor.  
 She lifted up the beggar's cloak he wore  
 —The one thing living that he would not kill—  
 And on those lips of his that sang no more,  
 That world-loathed head which she found lovely still,  
 Her cold lips closed, in death she had her will.

Oh wreck of the lost human soul left free  
 To gorge the beast thy mask of manhood screened !  
 Because one living thing, albeit a slave,  
 Shed those hot tears on thy dishonoured grave,  
 Although thy curse be as the shoreless sea,  
 Because she loved, thou art not wholly fiend.

1881.



## IMPERATOR AUGUSTUS.

IS this the man by whose decree abide  
The lives of countless nations, with the trace  
Of fresh tears wet upon the hard cold face?  
—He wept, because a little child had died.

They set a marble image by his side,  
A sculptured Eros, ready for the chase;  
It wore the dead boy's features, and the grace  
Of pretty ways that were the old man's pride.

And so he smiled, grown softer now, and tired  
Of too much empire, and it seemed a joy  
Fondly to stroke and pet the curly head,  
The smooth round limbs so strangely like the dead,  
To kiss the white lips of his marble boy  
And call by name his little heart's-desired.



“ATQUE IN PERPETUUM FRATER AVE ATQUE VALE.”

THIS was the end love made,—the hard-drawn breath,  
 The last long sigh that ever man sighs here ;  
 And then for us, the great unanswered fear,  
 Will love live on,—the other side of death ?

Only a year and I had hoped to spend  
 A life of pleasant communing, to be  
 A kindred spirit holding fast to thee,  
 We never thought that love had such an end.

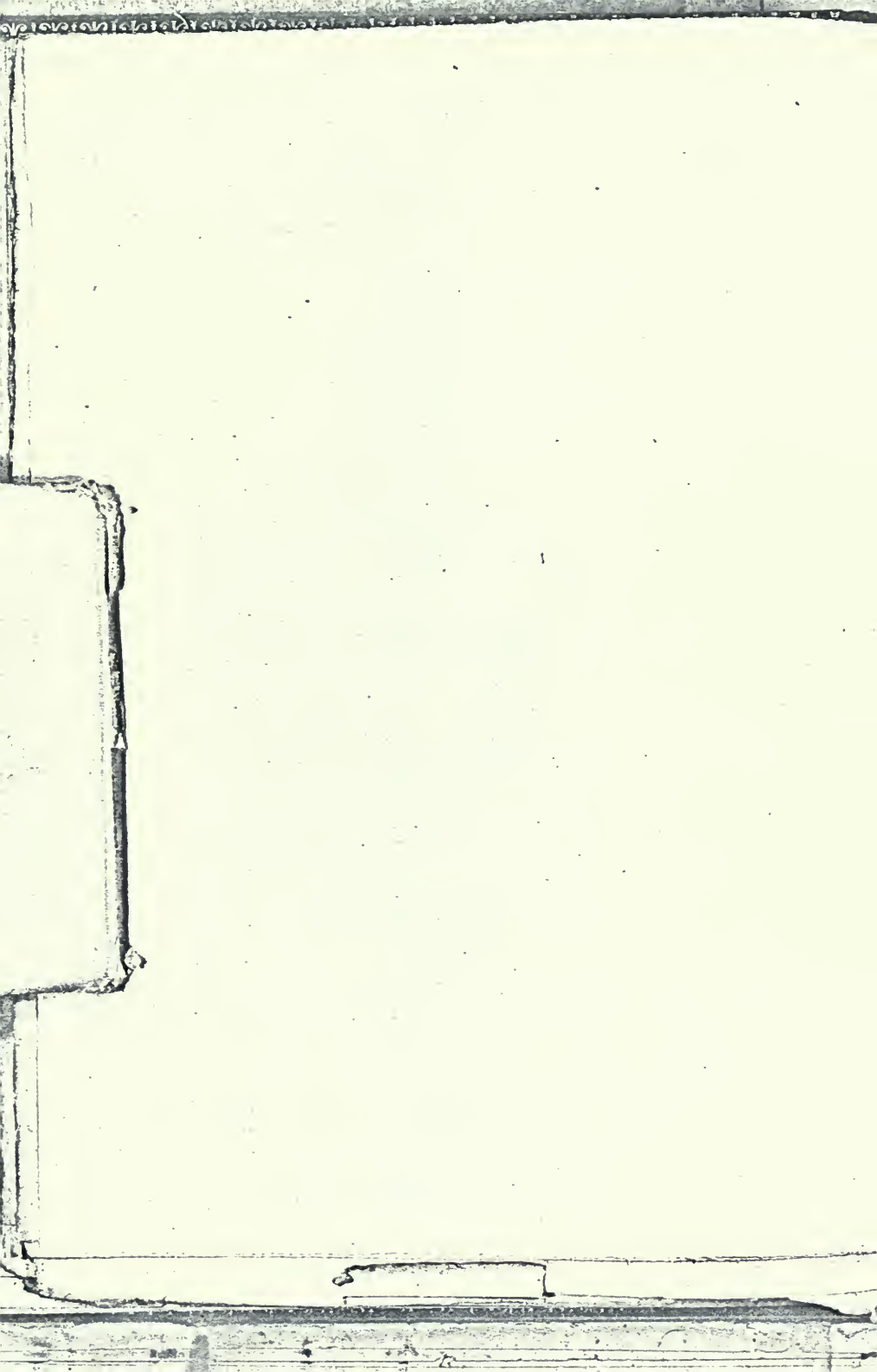
This was the end love made, for our delight,  
 For one sweet year he cannot take away ;—  
 Those tapers burning in the dim half-light,  
 Those kneeling women with a cross that pray,  
 And there, beneath green leaves and lilies white,  
 Beyond the reach of love, our loved one lay.

1879.



SONGS.





## LONG AFTER.

**I** SEE your white arms gliding,  
 In music o'er the keys,  
 Long drooping lashes hiding  
 A blue like summer seas ;  
 The sweet lips wide asunder,  
 That tremble as you sing,  
 I could not choose but wonder,  
 You seemed so fair a thing.

For all these long years after  
 The dream has never died,  
 I still can hear your laughter,  
 Still see you at my side ;  
 One lily hiding under  
 The waves of golden hair ;  
 I could not choose but wonder,  
 You were so strangely fair.

*LONG AFTER.*

I keep the flower you braided  
Among those waves of gold,  
The leaves are sere and faded,  
And like our love grown old.  
Our lives have lain asunder,  
The years are long, and yet,  
I could not choose but wonder,  
I cannot quite forget.

1880.



"WHERE THE RHONE GOES DOWN TO THE SEA."

A SWEET still night of the vintage time,  
 Where the Rhone goes down to the sea ;  
 The distant sound of a midnight chime  
 Comes over the wave to me.  
 Only the hills and the stars o'erhead  
 Bring back dreams of the days long dead,  
 While the Rhone goes down to the sea.

The years are long, and the world is wide,  
 And we all went down to the sea ;  
 The ripples splash as we onward glide,  
 And I dream they are here with me—  
 All lost friends whom we all loved so,  
 In the old mad life of long ago,  
 Who all went down to the sea.

46 "WHERE THE RHONE GOES DOWN."

So we passed in the golden days  
With the summer down to the sea.  
They wander still over weary ways,  
And come not again to me.  
I am here alone with the night wind's sigh,  
The fading stars, and a dream gone by,  
And the Rhone going down to the sea.

1880.



## MAIDENHAIR.

I REMEMBER low on the water  
They hung from the dripping moss  
In the broken shrine of some stream-god's daughter,  
Where the North and the South roads cross.  
And I plucked some sprays for my love to wear,  
Some tangled sprays of the maidenhair.

So you went North with the swallow,  
Away from this Southern shore,  
And the summers pass, and the winters follow,  
And the years, but you come no more.—  
You have roses now in your breast to wear,  
And you have forgotten the maidenhair.

And the sound of echoing laughter  
The songs that we used to sing,  
To remember these in the days long after,  
May seem but a foolish thing.  
Yet I know to me they are always fair,  
My withered sprays of the maidenhair.

## A SONG OF AUTUMN.

ALL through the golden weather  
Until the autumn fell,  
Our lives went by together  
So wildly and so well.—

But autumn's wind uncloses  
The heart of all your flowers,  
I think as with the roses,  
So hath it been with ours.

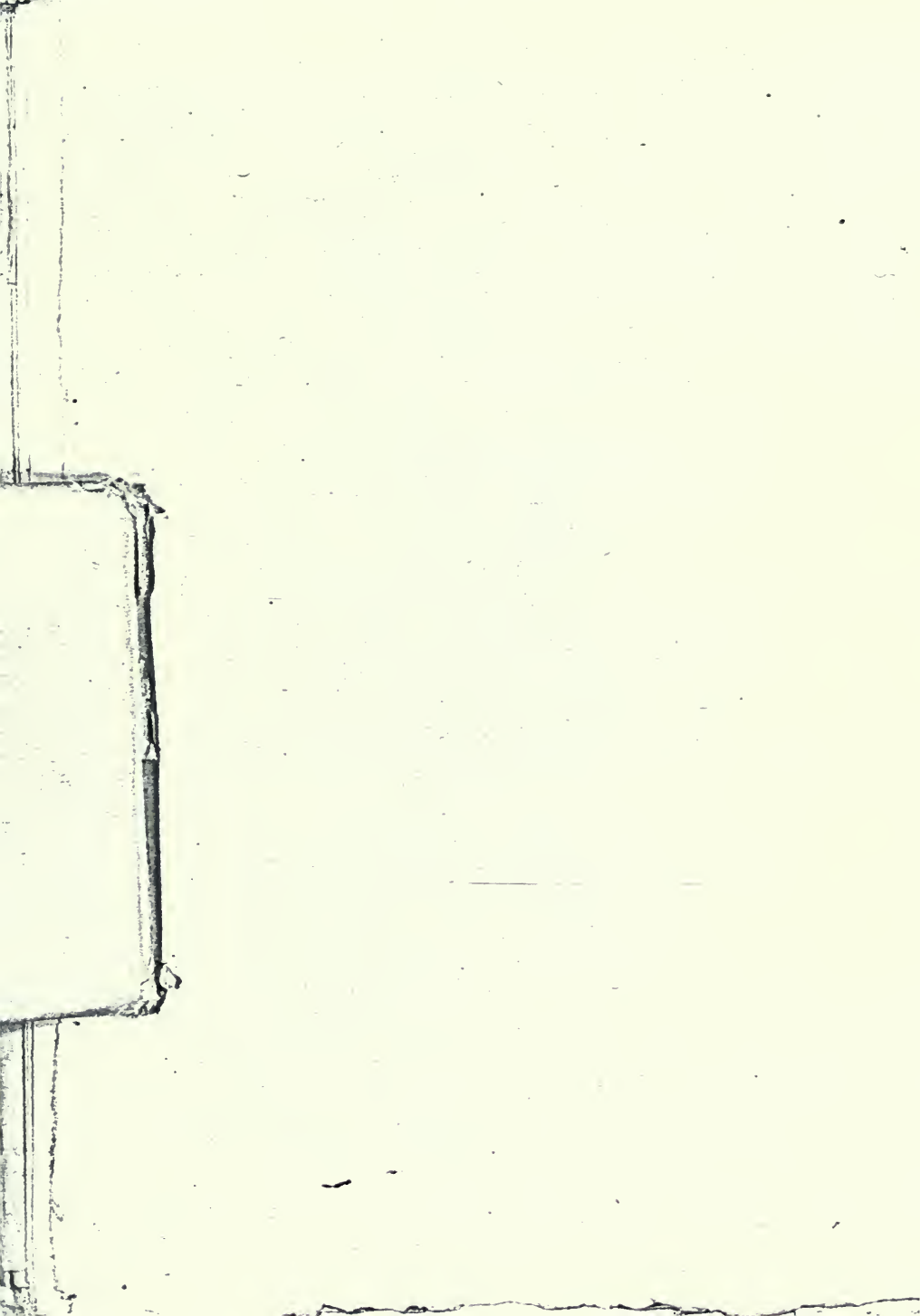
Like some divided river  
Your ways and mine will be,  
—To drift apart for ever,  
For ever till the sea.

And yet, for one word spoken,  
One whisper of regret,  
The dream had not been broken  
And love were with us yet.



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## ATALANTA.

**W**AIT not along the shore, they will not come ;  
 The suns go down beyond the windy seas,  
 Those weary sails shall never wing them home  
 O'er this white foam ;  
 No voice from these  
 On any landward wind that dies among the trees.

Gone south, it may be, rudderless, astray,  
 Gone where the winds and ocean currents bore,  
 Out of all tracks along the sea's highway  
 This many a day,  
 To some far shore  
 Where never wild seas break, or any fierce winds roar.

For there are lands ye never recked of yet  
 Between the blue of stormless sea and sky,  
 Beyond where any suns of yours have set,  
 Or these waves fret ;  
 And loud winds die  
 In cloudless summertide, where those far islands lie.

They will not come ! for on the coral shore  
The good ship lies, by little waves caressed,  
All stormy ways and wanderings are o'er,  
No more, no more !

But long sweet rest,  
In cool green meadow-lands, that lie along the West.

Or if beneath far fathom depths of waves  
She lies heeled over by the slow tide's sweep,  
Deep down where never any swift sea raves,  
Through ocean caves,  
A dreaming deep

Of softly gliding forms, a glimmering world of sleep.

Then have they passed beyond the outer gate  
Through death to knowledge of all things, and so  
From out the silence of their unknown fate

They bid us wait,  
Who only know

That twixt their loves and ours the great seas ebb and  
flow.



## "WHEN I AM DEAD."

WHEN I am dead, my spirit  
    Shall wander far and free,  
Through realms the dead inherit  
    Of earth and sky and sea ;  
Through morning dawn and gloaming,  
    By midnight moons at will,  
By shores where the waves are foaming,  
    By seas where the waves are still.  
I following late behind you,  
    In wingless sleepless flight,  
Will wander till I find you,  
    In sunshine or twilight ;  
With silent kiss for greeting  
    On lips and eyes and head,  
In that strange after-meeting  
    Shall love be perfected.  
We shall lie in summer breezes  
    And pass where whirlwinds go,  
And the Northern blast that freezes  
    Shall bear us with the snow.

*"WHEN I AM DEAD."*

We shall stand above the thunder,  
And watch the lightnings hurled  
At the misty mountains under,  
Of the dim forsaken world.  
We shall find our footsteps' traces,  
And passing hand in hand  
By old familiar places,  
We shall laugh, and understand.

1881.



"THOSE DAYS ARE LONG DEPARTED."

THOSE days are long departed,  
Gone where the dead dreams are,  
Since we two children started  
To look for the morning star.

We asked our way of the swallow  
In his language that we knew,  
We were sad we could not follow  
So swift the blue bird flew.

We set our wherry drifting  
Between the poplar trees,  
And the banks of meadows shifting  
Were the shores of unknown seas.

We talked of the white snow prairies  
That lie by the Northern lights,  
And of woodlands where the fairies  
Are seen in the moonlit nights.

Till one long day was over  
And we grew too tired to roam,  
And through the corn and clover  
We slowly wandered home.

Ah child ! with love and laughter  
We had journeyed out so far ;  
We who went in the big years after  
To look for another star ;

But I go unbefriended  
Through wind and rain and foam,—  
One day was hardly ended  
When the angel took you home.

1881.



## AFTER HEINE.

HOW the mirrored moonbeams quiver  
On the waters' fall and rise,  
Yet the moon serene as ever  
Wanders through the quiet skies.

Like the mirrored moonlight's fretting  
Are the dreams I have of you,  
For my heart will beat, forgetting  
You are ever calm and true.





## ENDYMION.

SHE came upon me in the middle day,  
Bowed o'er the waters of a mountain mere ;  
Where dimly mirrored in the ripple's play  
I saw some fair thing near.

I saw the waters lapping round her feet,  
The widening rings spread, follow out and die,  
I saw the mirror and the mirrored meet,  
And heard a voice hard by.

So I, Endymion, who lay bathing there,  
Half-hidden in the coolness of the lake,  
Looked up and swept away my long wild hair,  
And knew a goddess spake ;

A form white limbed and peerless, far above  
The very fairest of imagined things,  
The perfect vision of a dream of love  
Stepped through the water-rings ;

That breathed soft names and drew me to her arms,  
White arms and clinging in a long caress,  
And won me willing, by the magic charms  
Of perfect loveliness :

Till on my breast a throbbing bosom lies ;  
The dim hills waver and the dark woods roll,  
For all the longing of two glorious eyes  
Takes hold upon my soul.

Then only when the sudden darkness fell  
Upon the silver of the mountain mere,  
And through the pine trees of the slanting dell,  
The moon rose cold and clear.

I seemed alone upon the dewy shore,—  
For she had left me as she came unwarned ;—  
And fell from sighing into sleep, before  
The summer morning dawned.

What wonder now I find no maiden fair  
Who dwells between these mountains and the seas ?  
And go unloving and unloved, or ere  
I turn to such as these.

What wonder if the light of those wide eyes  
Makes other eyes seem cold ; for that loud laughter  
Lost love have nothing left but sighs  
For all the time hereafter.

Yet better so, far better, no regret  
Can touch my heart for that sweet memory's sake,  
But only sighing for the sun that set  
Behind the summer lake.

\* \* \* \*

But yesternorn it was, the second night  
Comes softly stealing over yon blue steep ;  
The world grows silent in the fading light,  
There is no joy but sleep.

—I cannot bear her fair face in the skies  
Beyond the drowsy waving of the trees,—  
A soft breeze kisses round my heavy eyes,  
A restful summer breeze.

What means this dreamless apathy of sleep?  
—A mist steals over the dim lake, the shore,  
Until my closing eyes forget to weep—  
Oh, let me wake no more !



## DISILLUSION.

AH ! what would youth be doing  
To hoist his crimson sails,  
To leave the wood-doves cooing,  
The song of nightingales ;  
To leave this woodland quiet  
For murmuring winds at strife,  
For waves that foam and riot  
About the seas of life.

From still bays silver sanded  
Wild currents hasten down,  
To rocks where ships are stranded  
And eddies where men drown.  
Far out, by hills surrounded,  
Is the golden haven gate,  
And all beyond unbounded  
Are shoreless seas of fate.

*DISILLUSION.*

They steer for those far highlands  
    Across the summer tide,  
And dream of fairy islands  
    Upon the further side.  
They only see the sunlight,  
    The flashing of gold bars,  
But the other side is moonlight  
    And glimmer of pale stars.

They will not heed the warning  
    Blown back on every wind,  
For hope is born with morning,  
    The secret is behind.  
Whirled through in wild confusion  
    They pass the narrow strait,  
To the sea of disillusion  
    That lies beyond the gate.



## REQUIESCAT.

**H**E had the poet's eyes,  
 —Sing to him sleeping,—  
 Sweet grace of low replies,  
 —Why are we weeping?—

He had the gentle ways,  
 —Fair dreams befall him!—  
 Beauty through all his days,  
 —Then why recall him?—

That which in him was fair  
 Still shall be ours :  
 Yet, yet my heart lies there  
 Under the flowers.

1881.











