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## MOONLIGHT.

G. W. B.

What is more beautiful, ye angels tell,  
Than when the moon of Summer's lovely night,  
In silence silvers, with a steady light,  
The many treetops in the lonely dell;  
When not a sound, e'en of the evening bell,  
Not e'en a breath, disturbs the stillness bright,  
Not e'en a cloud obscures in lonely flight  
The stars unnumbered,—what a wondrous spell!  
Oh! far more beautiful e'en than this fair scene  
Is God's own moonlight casting o'er the soul  
The mantling glory of His grace divine;  
And leading high and low unto the queen  
Of men and angels, who will deck the goal  
Of life with flow'rets culled for virtuous shrine.

## JOSEPH ADDISON.

W. J. K.

Joseph Addison was born at Milston, in Wiltshire, on the 1st of May, 1672. At the time of his birth, his father, a clergyman of the Church of England, had acquired no eminence worthy of note; but shortly after this period his abilities, and especially his steadfast labor and avowed loyalty, gained for him a position as one of the King's chaplains, and ultimately brought about his appointment as Dean of Wiltshire. Three years subsequent to this latter appointment of Dean Addison, Joseph was sent to the Charterhouse, where he formed with Steele that close attachment which lasted during his entire life, and which was so effective in shaping his career. At the age of fifteen he entered the University of Oxford. Here he distinguished himself in the several departments of literature, and acquired that love of literary pursuits, which, added to his acquaintance with eminent writers, caused him to change his original intention of studying for the ministry, and gave to the world and posterity an author of well-deserved renown. In 1699, on the reception of a sufficiently generous pension, Addison made a tour through the continent, for the purpose of acquiring perfection in the modern languages. On the death of the King, in 1702, finding himself devoid of resources, he was obliged to return to England. For some time he had no opportunity of obtaining a suitable situation, owing to his being politically opposed

to the party then in power. Shortly after this, however, the Whigs regained the supremacy; and Addison was appointed Commissioner of Appeals. From this office he rose, by successive grades, until, in 1717, we find him in Parliament; but his bashfulness and timidity entirely unfitted him for a proper fulfilment of the duties of such a position, and in the following year he retired from office. During all these years he devoted a great portion of his time to literature, and many of the productions of his gifted pen reflect great honor on him. No work, however, is so much associated with his name, as are the essays and criticisms which appeared in the *Spectator*, a magazine published by the joint efforts of Addison and Steele. Addison died on the 17th of June, 1719.

In studying the life of Addison, we cannot fail to be struck with the remarkable bond of friendship which existed between him and Steele. The latter was warm-hearted in his actions, and nobly aspiring in his aims; by such qualities he assuredly gained the love of him towards whom he acted as a guide. It was, indeed, through the efforts of his friend that Addison produced the many and excellent essays which merit for him so high a place in English literature. Infusing into him a breath of his own aspiring genius, he inspired his critical taste with great religious earnestness, so seldom noticed in the writers of those times, though it constitutes one of the leading features in his productions. When we consider the true and disinterested friendship which united these two men, and remained unbroken during all the varying changes of their lives, we cannot fail to recognize the great goodness of God in instituting ties which ease our path on earth, and of on the gloom of sorrow. Such was the bond which existed between Steele and Addison,—the latter pliable to the good exertions of the former in his favor, the former doing his utmost to guide the thoughts of the latter into those channels, for which his mind was so admirably fitted by nature and early training.

Addison's style was ornamented with every grace necessary to guarantee for it the name *elegant*. It is almost impossible to give a just critical analysis of the charms which it contains. He did not study to make his essays striking by the employment of grand and noble expressions, or by soaring to heights accessible to the genius alone. Neither did he obtain the