

MY BELOVED

*I KNEW her in her infancy,
Before she laughed to other eyes ;
I kissed her tresses all the day,
And sat with her in glad surprise ;
And knew her heart entirely true,
And gazed into her azure blue,
And through her virgin laugh and play
Beheld the gates of Paradise !*

*I loved her in her infancy,
And held that she was wholly mine ;
And worshipped her as one divine ;
From Kicking Horse to Thunder Bay
I loved her in her infancy.*

*I saw her in her womanhood,
A thousand suitors at her door ;
I hoped for her her greatest good,
Yet marvelled at the train she bore—
And hated prestige if it brought
Her virgin purity to nought ;
And held myself a jealous prude,
And for her faults I loved her more.*