I USED TO WEAR A GOWN OF GREEN

I used to wear a gown of green
And sing a song to May,
When apple blossoms starred the stream
And Spring came up the way.

I used to run along with Love By lanes the world forgets, To find in an enchanted wood The first frail violets.

And ever 'mid the fairy blooms
And murmur of the stream,
We used to hear the pipes of Pan
Call softly through our dream.

But now, in outcry vast, that tune Fades like some little star Lost in an anguished judgment day And scarlet flames of war.

What can it mean that Spring returns
And purple violets bloom,
Save that some gypsy flower may stray
Beside his nameless tomb!

To pagan Earth her gown of green, Her elfin song to May— With all my soul I must go on Into the scarlet day.