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LOST OPPORTUNITY

BY EDITH M. THOMAS

"There is a nest of thrushes in the
glen;
When we come back we'll see the
glad young things,"
He said. "We come not by that way
again;
And time and thrushes fare on eager
wings!

"Yon rose," she smiled, "but no; when
we return,
I'll pluck it then." 'Twas on a sum-
mer day.
The ashes of the rose in autumn's urn
Lie hidden well. We came not back
that way.

We do not pass the self-same way again,
Or, passing by that way, no thing we
find
As it before had been; but dearth or
stain
Hath come upon it, or the wasteful
wind.

The very earth is envious, and her arms
Reach for the beauty that detained
our eyes;
Yea, it is lost beyond the aid of charms,
If, once within our grasp, we leave
the prize!

Thou traveller to the unknown ocean's
brink,
Through life's fair fields, say not,
"Another day
This joy I'll prove;" for never, as I
think,
Never shall we come back this self-
same way!

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