

Poetry.

SHADOWS.

O'er, the shadows—the beautiful shadows,
Floating far o'er the hills away;
As over the sky
The light clouds fly,
So o'er the mountains wander they:

Oh, the shadows—the beautiful shadows,
Sleeping soft on the meadows green.
Fair are the flowers
In sunbright bowers,
But fairest the flowers those shades between!

Oh, the shadows—the beautiful shadows,
Dancing light on the ocean spray;
Changing each wave
From gay to grave,
Like the frowning smiles of a child at play.

Oh, the shadows—the beautiful shadows,
Sinking deep in the moonlit lake;
Where the mountains seem
As if view'd in a dream,
And a world of purer beauty make.

Oh, the shadows—the beautiful shadows,
In the world without and the world within,
For joy may borrow
A charm from sorrow
And charity smiles on repentant sin.

Oh, the shadows—the beautiful shadows,
Falling soft on the dazzled vision:
When the tender thought,
By memory brought,
Tempereth the glare of hopes chimerian.

And there are shadows—merciful shadows;
Dropping like balm on the bleeding heart,
When first it knows
That love's flame glows
Stronger and purer when joys depart.

Then bless the shadows—the beautiful shadows
And take this thought as you gaze abroad;
That in heaven and earth
Shades owe their birth
TO LIGHT—AND LIGHT IS THE SHADOW OF GOD.

Fraser's Magazine.

WILLIAM GOSSIP

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