216 POEMS WRITTEN BEFORE 1880

And straight uplooms through the dead centuries' smoke The aged Druid in his robe of fur,

Beneath the oak

Where hang uncut the paly mistletoes. The mistletoe dissolves to Indian willow,

Glassing its red stems in the stream that flows

Through the broad interval. A lazy billow

Flung from my oar lifts the long grass that grows To be the Naiad's pillow.

The startled meadow-hen floats off, to sink

Into remoter shades and ferny glooms;

The great bees drone about the thick pea-blooms; The linked bubblings of the bobolink,

With warm perfumes

From the broad-flowered wild parsnip, drown my brain; The grackles bicker in the alder-boughs;

The grasshoppers pipe out their thin refrain

That with intenser heat the noon endows. Then thy weft weakens, and I wake again

Out of my dreamful drowse.

Ah! fetch thy poppy-baths, juices exprest In fervid sunshine, where the Javan palm

Stirs, scarce awakened from its odorous calm

By the enervate wind, that sinks to rest Amid the balm

And sultry silence, murmuring, half asleep, Cool fragments of the ocean's foamy roar,

And of the surge's mighty throbs that keep Forever yearning up the golden shore,

Mingled with song of Nereids that leap

Where the curled crests downpour.

Who sips thy wine may float in Baiæ's skies,

Or flushed Maggiore's ripples, mindless made

Of storming troubles hard to be allayed. Who eats thy berries, for his ears and eyes

May vineyard shade