

So Dora cast her eyes upon the ground  
And answer'd softly, "This is William's child!"

"And did I not," said Allan, "did I not  
Forbid you, Dora?" Dora said again,

5 "Do with me as you will but take the child  
And bless him for the sake of him that's gone!"  
And Allan said, "I see it is a trick  
Got up betwixt you and the woman there.  
I must be taught my duty, and by you!

10 You knew my word was law and yet you dared  
To slight it. Well—for I will take the boy,  
But go you hence and never see me more."

So saying he took the boy that cried aloud  
And struggled hard. The wreath of flowers fell

15 At Dora's feet. She bow'd upon her hands,  
And the boy's cry came to her from the field  
More and more distant. She bow'd down her head  
Remembering the day when first she came  
And all the things that had been. She bow'd down  
20 And wept in secret, and the reapers reap'd,  
And the sun fell, and all the land was dark.

Then Dora went to Mary's house and stood  
Upon the threshold. Mary saw the boy  
Was not with Dora. She broke out in praise  
25 To God that help'd her in her widowhood.  
And Dora said, "My uncle took the boy;  
But, Mary, let me live and work with you:  
He says that he will never see me more."

Then answered Mary, "This shall never be,  
30 That thou shouldst take my trouble on thyself;  
And, now I think, he shall not have the boy  
For he will teach him hardness and to slight