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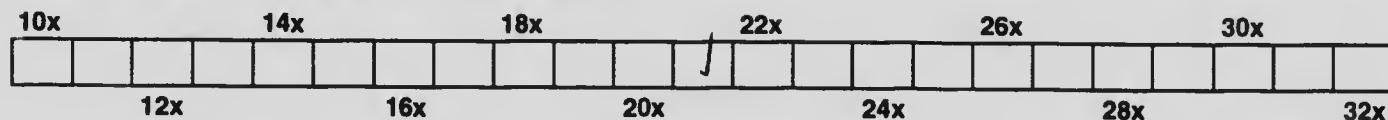
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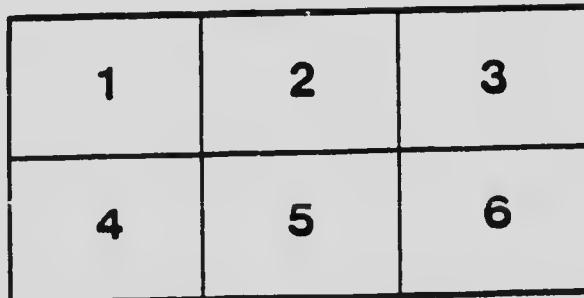
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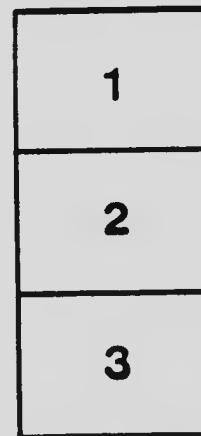
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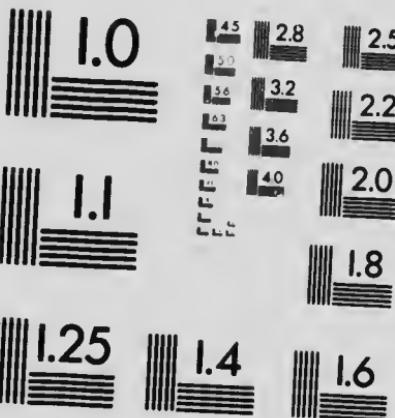
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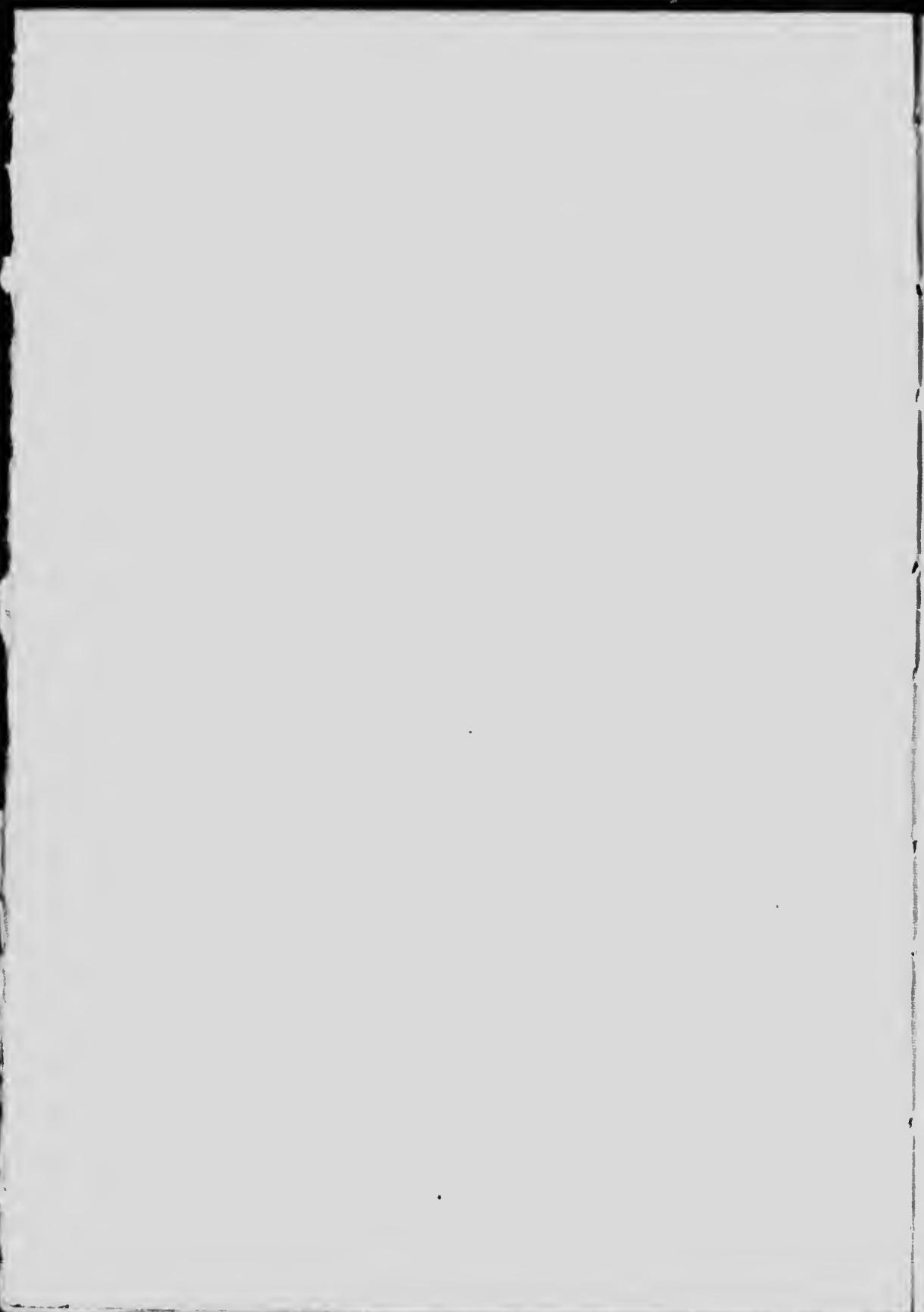


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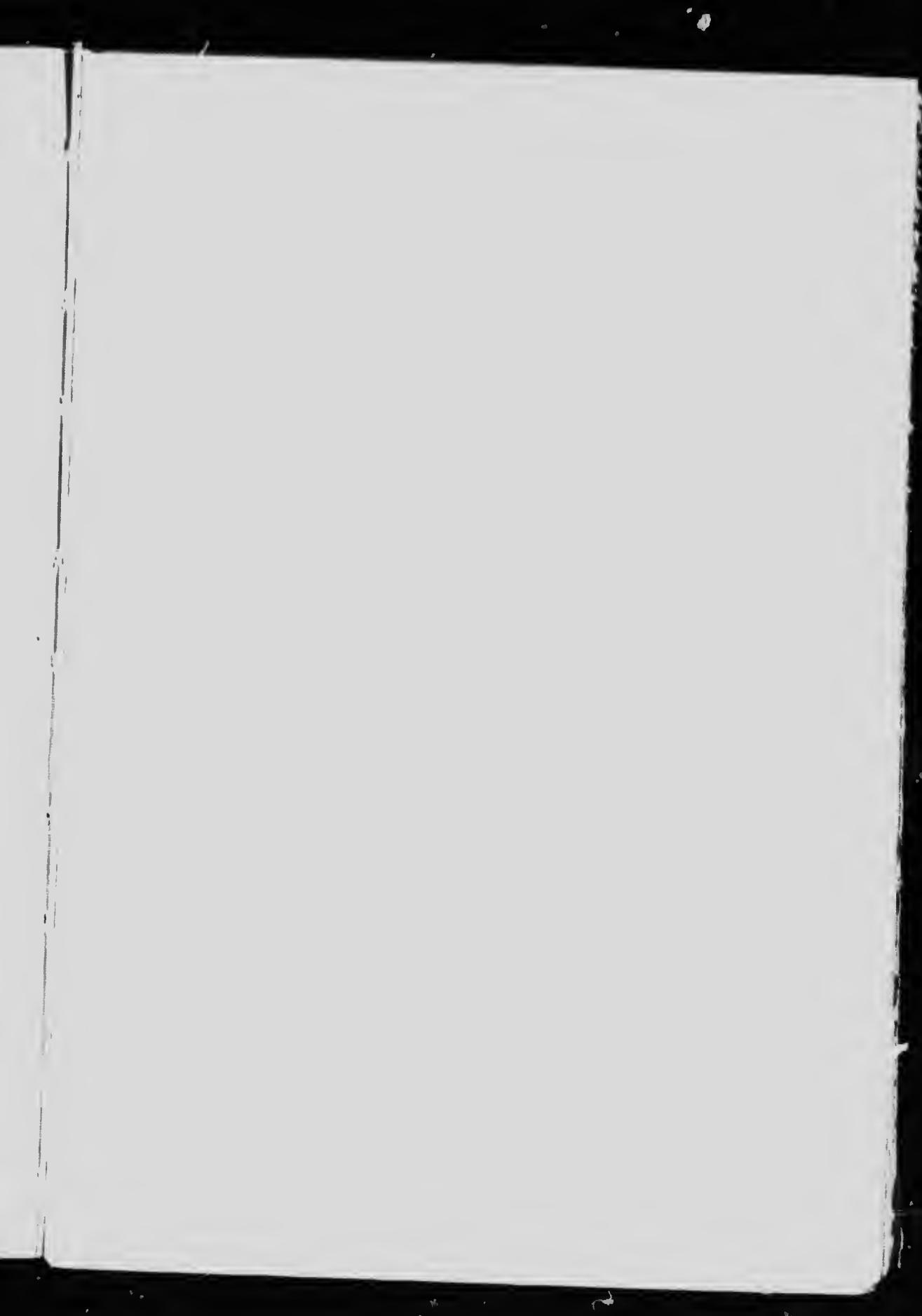
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SONGS
OF
SENTIMENT

↑







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SONGS OF SENTIMENT

HENRIETTA GARDNER CUTTAPANI



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THIS LITTLE BOOK IS
DEDICATED
WITH AFFECTION AND GRATITUDE
TO MY BELOVED AUNT,
MARY B. GARDNER.

P-8455

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S66

1709

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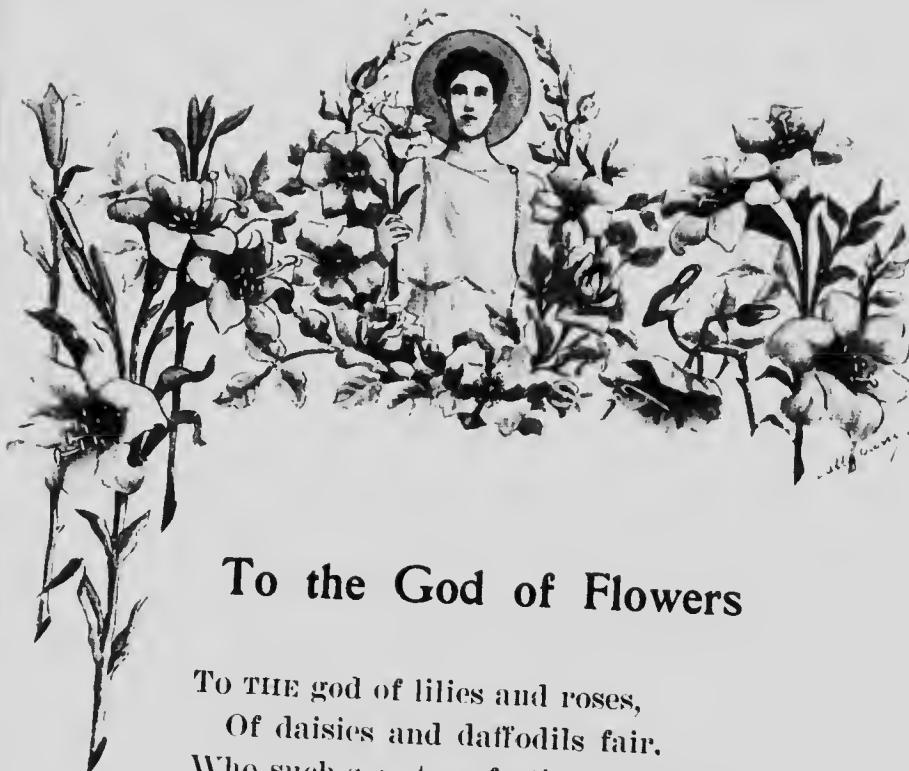
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To the God of Flowers

To THE god of lilies and roses,
Of daisies and daffodils fair,
Who such sweet perfection discloses,
I offer up praises and prayer;
Be he Greek or Hindu,
Or god of the Jew,
I know not, and hardly I care.

To the God of Flowers

For the god of such poems of beauty
Must be good and beautiful, too;
So to study them, then, is our duty,
Though bound in bright green and not
blue;
They are sonnets sublime,
Only wanting a rhyme,
That appear each Spring ever new.

If so lovely are earthly bowers,
And so sweet to scent and to sight,
Oh! how fair are immortal flowers
That are bathed in soft, golden light
As they tell a story
Of heavenly glory
In each of their pure petals white!

Life's Rudder

"NEPTUNE, mighty god of ocean!
Thine the pow'r for good or ill;
Thou canst save or thou canst sink me,
I the plaything of thy will.
Should I live to steer my vessel,
Or to hope soon bid adieu,
Still, no matter what may happen,
I shall keep my rudder true!"

Thus, these words were bravely spoken
By the pilot at the mast,
While the ship was wildly tossing,
Like a feather on the blast.
But this happened, I must tell you,
Many hundred years ago;
Still, like stars, those words are shining,
Guiding mariners below!

Thou, my brother, who art sailing
On the mighty "flood of years,"
While the demon-blast, Temptation,
Fills thy soul with mortal fears;
Though the waves are wildly rolling,
Though the sirens sweetly woo,
Oh! be sure, like that old sailor,
Still you keep Life's rudder true!

What I Would Be

Oh! would I were a silver lyre,
Still thrilling with poetic fire!
Or laurel leaf, whose lustre rare
Twines sparkling round a hero's hair.
Would I might be the ruby rose
That on sweet Juliet's bosom glows;
But oh! within those moonlit bow'rs,
Her words alone are lovely flowers!
I'd be Anacreon's gold'n bowl,
In which he "cradled" all his soul;
Yet spark of wit should not be drowned
In foamy wine and choral sound —
A gem of genins, richly wrought,
I'd sparkle on the brow of Thought!
And I'd be present e'en in death,
And fling around my balmy breath:
A stately lily, I'd illumine
With paly splendor th' dismal tomb.

What I Would Be

Or I would be a captive's dove,
Returning with a song of love;
Oh! I'd be all in nature bright
That swells the soul or joys the sight;
Yet let me be the least, small thing
That comfort to one heart can bring,
Now, shall I say what more I'd be?
— anything — beloved by thee!

The Harvest I Never Sowed

I DREAMED, that a little meadow
Was given to me by the Lord,
For thoughts to blossom like daisies,
That dapple the dewy sod.

And in that glorious harvest,
My deeds were the golden grain;
'Twas wet by my tearful sorrows,
And reaped by the sickle—pain.

And Work—Oh! he was the farmer,
And Duty his help-meet true;
And Hope was the little lantern
That cheered us the long night through.

18 The Harvest I Never Sowed

And when in the eve, sweet Fancy
Was winding her mellow horn,
Came startled, my cares out flitting
Like ravens, from midst the corn.

And oft in my twilight visions
I see that field of my dreams,—
Far up in the sky's blue meadow
It glistens with golden gleams.

But never can Reaper gather,
And never the grain be mowed;
Alas! in that field, shines only
The Harvest I never sowed!

The Sleeping Beauty

Like the princess, in the olden,
Golden time of long ago,
Earth lies sleeping, tranced and frozen
'Neath her coverlet of snow.

Cometh Spring, the fairy lover,
Stands beside her shumb'ring form,
And within an ivy bower
Wakes her with his kisses warm.

And she feels their magic power,
Feels a stirring of the blood;
Where he kissed her, in that hour,
Straight there bloomed a fragrant bud.

Golden curls of daffodillies
Flash upon his dazzled sight;
Brow and breast of whitest lilies—
Never was so fair a sight!

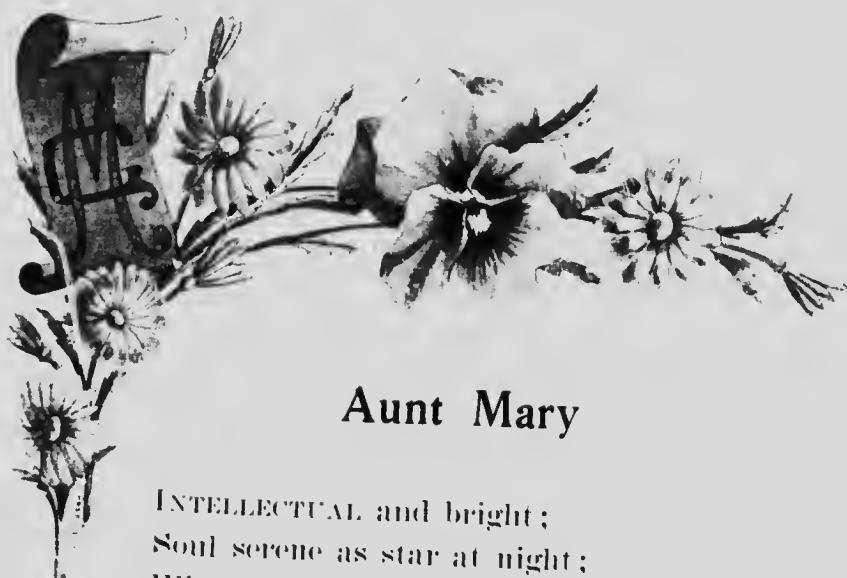
Eyes of violet's deepest azure,
Breath of perfume from the south,
And he sees, with thrilling pleasure,
Just a rosebud, for her mouth!

Butterfly Fancy

THE'S a spry little fly
 With a bright, golden eye,
 And his name is Butterfly Fancy;
 In the rose of the world
 He lies cosily curled
 Where the crities, blind owlets! can't see.

For they'd gobble him up,
 Fairy wings—coral cup;
 And pledge him a toast in an ink-horn.
 Oh! sure 'twould be erne,
 Just to flavor their gruel,
 To make our poor butterfly forlorn.

Let the poet, kind friend,
 Long his bright race defend,
 With pinions all purple and sheeny;
 And they'll lend him their wings,
 And they'll show him the springs
 That flow from the fount Hippocrene.



Aunt Mary

INTELLECTUAL and bright;
Soul serene as star at night;
Wise and just; and gracious, too;
"Up to date" in all things *new*.

Aunt Mary.

Generous, and kind and good;
Giving like a Lady food—
"Alms of love," true bread of life,
That we long for after strife.

Aunt Mary.

Such a one can ne'er grow old;
Time but purifies fine gold;
Golden words and golden deeds,
Plant in Heaven God's perfect seeds,

Aunt Mary.

Seeds that in celestial soil
There shall *bloom*, dear, after toil;
May you gather flowers fair
Some day when you enter there,

Aunt Mary.

In Love with Love

OH, I'm in love with you, beautiful Love!
With thy silken hair and thine eyes' soft
splendor;
Thy voice is the voice of the turtle dove,
Thy smile like the dawn is rosy and tender.

I dream at night, and I dream all the day
Of thy magic pow'r and thy mystic glory;
Thy light wings sparkle on every spray,
And the birds and the brooks sing on thy story.

I feel thou art near me, though hidden from
sight,
Like a bea^ttiful bee on the breast of a flower;
But Psyche shall lend me her lamp i' the night
And discover sweet Love in summer's green
bower.

The stars that adorn with flowers of flame
The crystalline steps of thy heav'nly altar,
Be witness that though I but guess at the name,
Its musical sound I feinely falter.

Then come, little Rover, come to thy rest!
What is the need that thou further shouldest
wander?
Fold thy soft wings o'er my heart's rosy nest,
And thou and I, Love, shall only grow fonder.

The Little Red Lark

Oh! where has my heart gone?
Can any one find it, pray?
On wings like the bright dawn
It flew o'er the hills far away.

'Twas a little red lark
In my body's fair prison;
Hang the cage in the dark—
Love's lark hath arisen!

For the cage may still glisten
Though flown the bright bird;
But vainly we listen
For the voice we once heard.

The Little Red Lark

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Oh! the heart has one song—
Its wild melody o'er,
Though the day lingers long,
It is mute evermore,

Heart took Love for its mate,
And no more will return;
But it learned all too late
Love the Phoenix can burn!

To the One I Love

Would I might be the glass, love,
 That's by thy fingers clasped!
 'Twould flutter to thy lips, love,
 And fill itself unmasked.

Would I might be thy shoon, love,
 To lift thee from the sod;
 They'd tread upon the stars, love,
 Be winged like Hermes' rod.

Would I might be the breeze, love,
 That rocks thee to thy rest,
 When Day, his journey o'er, love,
 Takes off his golden vest.

Would I might be the grave, love,
 To hold thee when thou'rt dead;
 And oh! I'd be the star, love,
 That crowns thy angel head!

First Love

My first love! Oh, how sweet the maid—
How beautiful was she;
As, hand in hand, through wood and glade,
She wandered on with me,

It seemed that joy smiled everywhere,
While pleasure bade us stay;
It seemed no change could e'er come there,
As slipped the years away.

Alas! one night my love grew cold;
The next—and she was gone!
Now, soon my story will be told;
For I was left alone.

There's naught on earth can take her place;
Indeed, I speak the truth.
I'd give the world to see her face—
She was my vanished youth!

Beautiful Eyes

Oh, beautiful eyes that I love so well!
Eyes where the fountains of life seem to dwell.
There is naught in the world so clear or so bright
As thy deep, dark, wild and mystical light;
As the moon draws the sea, so thine eyes draw
my soul,
Till, lured from my body, it flies from control!

E'en the planets in heaven less bright than ye
are;
For a mind lights the eye, but not so the star.
Oh! thy splendor in memory ever shall shine,
And will dazzle and hamit me 'till life shall
decline;
As a man who, in gazing too long on the sun,
Will see its bright spectrum when daylight is
done!



A Bunch of Keys

Out! men are but a bunch of keys,
Upon Time's girdle strung;
But some would like to cut the cord
And slip off the thong.

One is the "open Sesame,"
The golden key of wealth!
Another key—the "Skeleton,"
Gets all he has by stealth.

A Bunch of Keys

This one unlocks the Universe,—
The massy key of thought!
Another key but opens well
The door that leads to—Naught.

And some are keys that open hearts
Whose locks are black with rust;
And some are keys that coffins lock,
Wherein our hopes are dust.

And there are keys that open Heav'n,
And some are keys to Hell;
But worst of all the heavy bunch
Is the key to a Boodler's cell!

Cupid Will Reign

Too much dost thou love me,
Too much do I love thee,
 Coldness to feign,
What, though the whole world chide,
Useless our love to hide,
 Cupid will reign.

Even 'neath a coronet
Eyes may with tears be wet,
 By grief cast down,
Hearts, they will often ache,
Aye, and for love will break,
 In a silk gown,

With you, then, by my side,
I will forget my pride
 And the world's frown;
For gems and silk attire
I do not now aspire—
 Love is my crown,

My Hero

My hero must be brave, but gentle, too;
No savage conqueror of might,
Yet valiant in the cause of right,
To all around him faithful, kind and true.

A nobleman by nature, not by birth,
His words, well chosen and refined,
Must be the coinage of his mind,
And still attest his manhood's honest worth.

His manners pleasing and his dress not gay:
Complexion rather dark than fair,
Of black or chestnut hue his hair,
And thoughtful, clear-cut eyes of crystal gray.

He may be small and plain and poor, if he
In heart and mind and soul be great;
I'll gladly greet the king I wait,
And bow before my hero blushingly.

The Mistletoe

The Lily's a lady,
The Rose is a queen,
The Violet's mild-like,
And seldom is seen,

But, best of Earth's children
Is the brave Mistletoe,
Who brings us her berries
All covered with snow,

Oh! once she was honored
In an age before ours,
And her leaves were then worshipped
For their wondrous powers.

High up in the heavens
Her bright berries shone,
And she looked in her oak tree
Like a queen on her throne.

Then came to the forest
The Druids in white,
All chanting her praises
In the frosty moonlight.

They cut off the branches
With gold sickles keen,
And threw to the people
Her shining leaves green.

For if in a goblet
There floated one leaf,
Twould cure every sickness
And sorrowful grief.

Then let us be grateful
To healers of woe,
And remember at Christmas
The green Mistletoe.

The Angel of the Year

SEE the New Year coming
 Down Time's golden stair,
 With a crown of glory
 On her shining hair.

Welcome the fair stranger
 Coming in the night;
 Let her find us ready—
 Hearts and homes alight.

Every year an angel
 Cometh down to earth;
 Sharing in our sorrow,
 Joining in our mirth.

Let us then remember
 'Midst our grief and cares,
 We are entertaining
 Angels unaware.

Angels that will bless us
 Ere they shall depart
 If we do our duty
 With a faithful heart.

Thoughts in the Springtime

Now the flowers awaken
From their wintry sleep,
And come with smiling faces
Above the earth to peep.
Thus, springing from our sorrows,
New joys will oft arise;
And, ripened in the darkness,
Meet us in sweet surprise.

But, as the flowers wither
And fall into decay;
So, man and all he strives for
Must swiftly pass away.
Still like them, pale and drooping,
When destiny is done,
He holds within his bosom
The seeds of life to come!

The Fairy Future

SANTA CLAUS, the Fairy Future,
Now will soon be coming here
With a pack of gifts and playthings
In the basket of the year.

No one is by him forgotten --
Rich and poor he goes among,
Visiting the homes of mortals,
Bearing gifts to old and young.

Leaving in the tent of soldier
Sword, and fife, and rolling drum,
With a dream of martial glory
And of laurels yet to come.

To the lawyer brings he bag-wig
(Would that he brought wisdom, too!)
And the doctor has a pill-box
That shall make his patient blue.

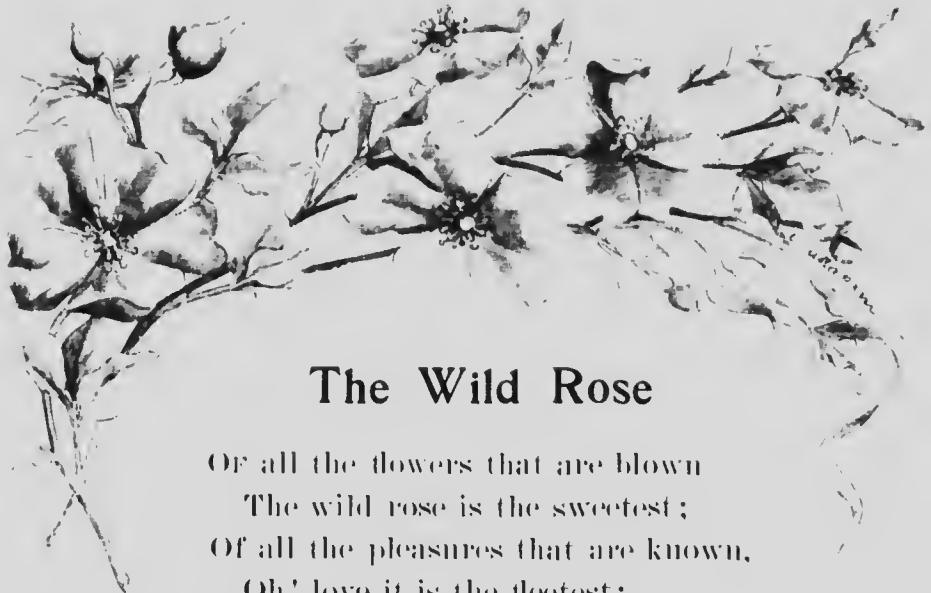
The Fairy Future

But the maiden, lovely sweetheart,
Shall receive a golden ring;
Happy hopes that shall awaken
Summer in the heart of Spring.

To the sick he brings an angel
That shall take away their pain;
And they learn, beyond Death's gateway,
Earthly loss is heavenly gain.

But the poet, mystic dreamer,
Shall receive a living lyre;
Sweep the chords of human feeling
With his ardent hands of fire.

Thus we wait the Fairy Future,
Bringing gifts to you and me!
With our hopes, like little candles,
Shining on Life's Christmas tree!



The Wild Rose

Of all the flowers that are blown
The wild rose is the sweetest;
Of all the pleasures that are known,
Oh! love it is the fleetest;
Yet roses live but for a day,
And Cupid seldom comes to stay,
He's such a little rover!

Then pluck the rose while still divine,
Ere with its odors dying;
And kiss the maid while she is thine,
Won with enamored sighing;
For sweetest roses soonest die,
And she shall languish by and by,
And all thy joy be over!

Spring

WINTER is old, and white and cold,
But Spring is blithe and bonnie;
With crook of gold to guide her fold
Of fleecy cloudlets sunny,

A teardrop lies within her eyes,
The rainbow in her smiling;
Whate'er her guise, or smiles, or sighs,
All nature still beguiling.

In green array she comes this way,
Dapping the field with daisies;
While loud and gay, in joyous lay
The birds chant out her praises,

But coming soon is gentle June,
Filled with celestial fires;
When brooks attune their rustic rime,
And sweet Springtime retires.

Love's Locomotive

THERE'S a gay locomotive, called "Cupid" by name,
All filled with bright vapor and roseate flame;
'Tis the best locomotive that ever was made,
And it casts Father Time's all into the shade.
From the glance of an eye once let Cupid's car
out,
And 'twill reach, in a twinkling, Love's station,
the heart.
Oh! 'tis filled with the foolish, both young and
the old;
And its wheels are made often of silver and gold,
The lover and loveless, the bridegroom and bride,
In a sweet *tête-à-tête* there sit side by side,
Thus around the whole world merry Cupid's car
goes,
All padded and painted lovely *couleur de rose*.

There's a sound like a kiss and the Belle gives a
scream,

But 'tis only Love's way of thus letting off
steam!

Then away goes the train with a rumble and
roar--

And there always is room for one passenger
more;

But, as accidents happen no doctor can cure,
You had best with *Good Sense* to first fully
insure!

Life's Pleasure-Boat

PLEASURE's a fairy-boat,
All wreathed with flowers;
Oh! a sight to admire
In sunshiny hours.
Gently she glides along
On Life's Summer sea,
While round her silken sails
The winds blow in glee.

But when comes the tempest
And loud howls the gale,
Broken her gilded mast,
And torn her silk sail.
The waves for a moment
Her requiem roar,
And then our frail shallop
Is seen nevermore.

Life's Pleasure-Boat

But, Duty's a pilot
Can hold the helm fast,
Can brave the bright lightning
And weather the blast,
While Virtue will lend us
Her binnacle light,
Until the fair haven
Is safely in sight.

Too Late

Too late you came, your only crime,
For fled were youth's bright hours,
While Love himself is winged like Time,
And seeks the freshest flowers.

For in the bright and liquid morn,
How brilliant bloom the roses;
But when the Winter comes forlorn,
How soon the brief bud closes.

Then chide me not that I am cold,
That you no passion waken;
Remember, dear, that we are old,
And Love his leave has taken.

Spring's Love-Letter

DAINTY Spring has lovers many,
Beautiful and bright is she;
One more dear there is than any,
Oh! whoever can it be?

Open lies his loving letter,
Writ on Nature's page of green;
Hide it soon the maid had better,
If she would not have it seen.

Not like feeble words of ours
Do his ardent thoughts appear;
For an alphabet of flowers
Tells us that a God writes here.

Snowdrop, crocus, primrose, daisies,
And the periwinkle blue,
Make the starry chain of praises
That avows His love so true.

Violets and daffodillies,
Venus's sacred myrtle vine,
Blushing rose and fairest lilies,
Love and flattery combine.

And one flower of flaunting brightness
Mid them all we now behold;
'Tis her lover's faithful likeness—
Shining, sun-like marigold!

May

MAY is the month when merry maids
Do gather birds and flowers,
And listen to the tales of love
In Nature's verdant bowers,

May is the mild and magic month
When moon and stars are brightest,
When meadows are most fresh and fair,
And loving hearts are lightest,

May is the time for youth and mirth,
And May's the time to marry;
While she who will not *then* be wed
Deserves to ever tarry.

May is the sweetest, brightest, best
Beloved of all the seasons,
And for that proud opinion here
I've given goodly reasons.



Romeo and Juliet

O JULIET, thou fairest flower
 That ever bloomed in mortal bower,
 How oft at moonlit eve I dream
 I see thy dark eyes softly beam.

I dream; and thy fond lover see
 As ardently he bends the knee;
 And wishes that he were thy "glove,"
 Or swears "by yonder moon" above.

Romeo and Juliet

The moon! and is it still the same
That circled then with silver flame?
And was it but the change of time
That quenched their spirits so sublime?

Ah, no! such love can never die,
They meet with rapture in the sky;
Far as the stars though now their flight,
Still do their wingèd souls unite.

Would that Juliet I could be
To feel so deep and fervently;
Or a Romeo I could find
As good and gracious, fond and kind.

Fame, like the sun, now gilds the gloom,
And sheds a glory on their tomb;
The lover's altar, poet's shrine,
Where Passion breathes its prayer divine!

The Strawberry

FROM flowers fair and rosy wine
Should poet's theme ne'er vary?
Let others praise the purple vine,
I sing the sweet strawberry.

So perfect the delicious fruit,
We scarcely heed its flower;
While from one plenteous green shoot
There falls a ruby shower.

It suits full well the castle hall,
And decks the lordly table;
And, yet, at rural festival
To minister 'tis able.

The Strawberry

Its perfume is as fresh and sweet,
Its leaves as graceful growing,
As any flower you can meet,
When buds are softly blowing.

It, thus, alike delights the eye,
The taste as well as smelling;
And, 'neath the pure, bright Alpine sky
'Tis all the year found dwelling.

It is the one, sweet, perfect thing,
In sympathy still given,
Which some good angel here did bring
'To 'mind us still of heaven.

Oh! then, the lesson let us learn,
To add to use still sweetness!
This gives the mind that may be stern
The Strawberry's completeness!

I Would—Wouldn't You?

WHAT would you do if a youth called you
"fairest?"

What would you do if a youth called you
"wise?"

Wouldn't you try just to believe him in earnest,
And be sure to see yourself through his eyes?

I would—wouldn't you?

What would you do if a youth said he *lored* you?

What if he swore that his bosom did "burn,"
Wouldn't you believe the miracle *was* true,

And love him a little just in return?

I would—wouldn't you?

56 I Would—Wouldn't You?

What would you do, if, made bold by his passion,
His lips sought your own in love's exquisite
bliss;

But, since Mother Eve herself set the fashion,
Make happy your lover with one little *kiss*?
I would—wouldn't you?

What if a youth in some sweet summer bower
The twilight is veiling with silvery gray,
Should breathe forth his passion in that magic
hour,

Would you grant his request by *naming the day*?

I would—wouldn't you?

Welcome to Summer

DEAR Spring, adieu!
You have been gentle, sweet and fair
As your own starry daisies are;
But, then, Oh! you
Do bring,
Dear Spring,
The royal summer,
And wait upon her;
Who, like an Oriental queen,
Now, here, right so'reignly is seen;
Clad in vermillion, jewelled rare,
With amber in her auburn hair;
Like Isis, sprinkled o'er with spice,
And smiling, fresh from Paradise!
With sandaled feet, and roses crowned,
She scarcely treads the sacred ground,

When in the dew-bedabbled dawn,
She passes through the golden corn.

Then haste away,

Sweet Spring, do not stay!

Though bright your fine,

Still more divine

This glad new-comer

The queenly Summer.

The Fireside Fairy

THERE is a little fairy
Who comes at close of day
To soothe us in our sorrow
And take our grief away.

A dainty little creature,
All clad in rosy red,
With bright and flowing mantle,
And crown upon her head.

She comes in silence only,
This spirit of the fire,
From out the ruddy embers,
When footsteps all retire.

The Fireside Fairy

And pretty are the pictures
She shows us in the light,
Of tower and of temple,
Of lady and of knight.

And 'mid the embers shining,
We once again behold,
In their own form and semblance,
The friends we knew of old.

Then give the fireside fairy
A place among the rest;
Though coming uninvited,
An ever welcome guest.

But cherish the sweet sylphid,
Whose tresses shine like gold;
Nor let in doleful darkness
Thy hearthstone e'er grow cold.



The Search After Truth

OH! what is Truth? Where does she dwell?
 Not in the ancient, fabled well;
 No matter how long he may stare,
 Man sees his own face mirrored there.

Not in a part but in the whole
 Does Truth encase her shining soul.
 We see her tresses in the sun;
 The stars they deck her, one by one.

62 The Search After Truth

She plants her feet upon the earth,
But heaven alone her soul gave birth.
She holds aloft the lamp of life;
Her other hand clasps Death's keen knife.

She's in the earth beneath our feet;
The golden grain; the flowers sweet;
The incient lake; the heavenly dew;
The crawling snake; the upas, too.

Oh! all without, and all within;
In God and nature, man and sin;
In thunder, lightning, and in air,
Invisible, the Truth lives there.

She drops her gems upon the ground,
And man thinks he the Trnht has found;
Then builds an altar—or a spire—
But far aloft shines Truth's bright fire.

Religion—science—are but steps
In Truth's grand temple. No one leaps
Into her presence, or her throne,
For no one yet the Truth has known.

Cupid's Calendar

OH, when my Julia opes her eyes,
Then daylight is appearing;
But when those orbs in slumber close,
'Tis then dull night is nearing.

While summer comes with her sweet smiles,
Sad winter with her scorning—
So flowers watch my lady's looks,
And little birds take warning.

For, like the fickle April day,
Her moods so quickly vary;
She changes like the weather-cock,
Or clouds so light and airy.

Such liberty my Julia's charms
Have taken with each season,
That I, who lost my heart before,
Now fear to lose my reason!

Absent, But Dear

'Tis not while their friendship and faith are our own,

'Tis not while our loved ones are here,
That our warmest affection is felt or is known—
'Tis when they are absent, but dear.

Oh! 'tis not 'till the vessel has passed from our sight

That we its bright furrows can view;
As 'tis distance that lends a dim silvery light
And robes the dark mountain in blue.

So, thinking of pleasures that once did abond,
We prize not the joys we have here;
And we turn from the friends that are gathered around
To sigh for the absent, but dear.

For, althongh Time has taken our loved ones afar,

Fond memories linger here yet;
As the rays that arrive from some vanishing star
Long after the planet has set!

To Modjeska

Oh, thou art a rose, made of sunlight and dew,
 And thou art a lamp, with the light flashing
 through;

But thou art a fairy, and thou art a queen!
 And were I a youth I thy lover had been,

Modjeska!

Thy face is a garden where Love's flowers grow,
 Thy forehead a mount ever silvered with snow,
 Thy brows lurid serpents and threaten a storm;
 But thy smile, a fine fire, still keeps thy face
 warm,

Modjeska!

Thou art the gazelle of all graceful girls;
 The phœnix could make his bright nest of thy
 curls.

Oh, thy voice might beguile a young babe from
 the breast

Or sing, like a siren, sailor lads to their rest,

Modjeska!

Thy month is a rich, rosy casket of gems;
Thine eyes are more brilliant than king's
diadems;
Thy hand is a sceptre of ivory fair,
While you, I oft fancy, the "lost Pleiad" are,
Modjeska!

And were I another, I would slip from my
sphere
To flame and to dazzle beside you, my dear.
A feminine Castor and Pollux we'd be;
But we'd shine on the land and not on the sea,
Modjeska!

Of maids there are plenty—sad, sour or droll—
But thou, oh, my lady, art "rich in a soul";
So I lay my poor verse at my queen-woman's feet,
As Sir Raleigh his cloak in the old London street.
Modjeska!

From the throne of thy genius look royally down,
Thon pearl of great price in fair womanhood's
crown,
And smile on thy subjeet, so loyal and true,
For I laid, with my verses, my loving heart, too,
Modjeska!



Lulu

YOU'RE fair as Byron's Du-Du, Du-Du,
 You've won my heart, sweet Lulu-Lulu;
 Your head is like a golden star
 That twinkles in the sky afar.
 Lulu! Lulu!

Your voice is like the Bul-Bul, Bul-Bul,
 That cheers the soul when dull-dull, dull-dull;
 You seem made up of sweet sunshine;
 One-half is human—half divine,
 Lulu! Lulu!

Your form is fair as Hebe-Hebe
 Who ever, Dear, now, she be, she be;
 My ev'ry thought is bent to prove,
 'Tis you alone, alone I love,
 Lulu! Lulu!

The Sword of Sorrow

In the wonderful East, at a glorious feast,
A Sultan once sat on his throne;
While sweet perfume and wine made the night
seem divine
Mid splendor from cresset and scone.

On a conch at his side, sat his beautiful bride,
Fit bud for a Bower of Bliss;
While her gem-spangled lace half veiled her
sweet face,
And mouth that seemed made for a kiss.

So, there, happy and proud, amid the gay crowd,
The Victor in war, as in love;
Without one thought of gloom, or sad, sudden
doom,
The Sultan glanced idly above.

The Sword of Sorrow

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When he saw *overhead*, 'neath the canopy
spread
That fell from the ceiling to floor,
By a *single hair hung*, a sharp *cimeter* swung,
As bright as young Sultan e'er wore!

There, as if turned to stone, he, still, sat on his
throne;
But, forgotten both pleasure and pride,
His fair Bride of an hour, his pomp and his
power,
For of *fright* the Sultan had died!

Oh, on one and on all, the sharp sword may soon
fall,
Though we cannot see it to-day;
For the Sword we call "Sorrow," may, yet, *fall*
to-morrow,
But, now, hidden in roses away.

Yet, those moments of pain, often prove our
great gain,
As pure pearls are brought up from brine;—
And love the most tragic, will, oft, with its
magic,
Turn Life's muddy water to wine?

On Easter Morn

THE angels sang of peace and love,
 Bathed in the golden glow;
And ev'ry note they sang above
 Fell as a bnd below.

That's why the flowers are so bright,
 So full of nameless grace;
As if, in every leaf of light,
 There shone an angel's face.

Thus sweetly are they eloquent
 Of heaven and its ways,
And tell of days in goodness spent,
 For they are songs of praise!



Music

ONCE when earth was young and fair
 (Ere sin came),
 Many angels lingered there
 (Mortals' happiness to share),
 Bright as flame.

Only one stayed here below
 All alone,
 After Satan wrought us woe,
 In Eve's garden long ago,
 To atone.

And forever still she sings,
 Men to cheer;
 With her white and shining wings
 Comfort still she ever brings
 Sad hearts here.

Something of that sacred clime
Thrills her strings;
Influences sweet, sublime,
Hinting of a happier time,
Here she brings.

She is Music; so divine
Are her strains,
Thrilling souls like mellow wine,
Mortals then no more repine,
As in chains.

For she fills their hearts with cheer,
Makes earth bright;
Wipes away dark sorrow's tear,
Frees the mind from doubt and fear
By her might.

Greater love can none inspire;
By God's throne
Her bright symbol shines in fire,
The constellation called the "Lyre,"
Music's own!

The Mutineers

Now, up from their dark hatches swarming
The Passions run madly on deck;
They are rushing about and storming,
And the good Ship trying to wreck.

They have taken the helm from Duty
And have snatched the ropes from Remorse;
But thinking of plunder and booty,
Are steering the bark from its course.

They have quenched the bright light of Reason,
And Conscience fast bound to the mast;
They are plotting murder and treason,
As they sail in the stinging blast.

As they steer on, heeding no warning,
They mark not the lighthouse red glow;
But where will they be in the morning,
If wrecked on the dark reefs of Woe?

Oh, pray, then, all ye noble-hearted,
And, pray with a right earnest will,
That Christ be from Earth not departed;
But, say to the waves, "*Peace!—be still!*"

And that the good ship we call "Duty,"
Oh, never may thys go astray,
But, sail on, in splendor and beauty,
Its gallant and smooth-sailing way!

The Fairy Queen

Now is the time the god of Love
Doth string his bow with flowers;
While bright the sun that shines above
Makes golden all the hours.

So sweet those fragrant shafts now seem
We scarcely feel their smart;
And thus it is in spring we deem
Love's arrows reach the heart.

Green is the grass, and bright the skies,
The clouds are clad in white;
And though their home in heaven lies,
Shed here their angel light.

The Fairy Queen

For spring has come, that fairy child,
And winter stern has fled;
Lo, where the dreaming maiden smiled,
Each flower raised its head.

The daisy and the snowdrops fair,
That make the meadow bright;
While cowslips now come crowding there,
In sooth a gladsome sight.

And on they come, the fairy crew,
Each lovely to behold;
All dressed in robes of changing hue,
Of silver, blue and gold.

The pretty pageant of the year
It is that now is seen,
For gayly do the flowers appear
To greet their fairy queen!

No Harm in Kissing

Of all the joys
 That love employs
 There's none so sweet as kissing;
 From morn till night
 It gives delight
 No wise maid will be missing.

The silly pride
 May call it rude;
 Nor kiss one, willy-nilly;
 But angry Love
 Will fly above,
 Nor choose a heart so chilly.

A little kiss
 Is not amiss
 If but the maid be willing;

But, if denied
With look of pride,
Why, glances are not killing.

Oh! 'tis the dish
E'en gods do wish,
From Paradise descending;
It fills the earth
With joy and mirth,
And nectar never ending.

Chaste Dian, too,
Oft left the bine
To hunt this wide world over;
And dropt her bow
On meadows low
To kiss her own dear lover.

And why should we
Now wiser be
Than Mother Eve, or Moses?
Then, steal a kiss
And know the bliss
Of "Love among the roses!"

Love and Song

WITHIN a bote
 Lay cradled mute
 The infant we call Song,
 'Till straying far
 From some grand star,
 The Love God came along.

In master style,
 Then, with a smile,
 He clasped it to his breast;
 With hands and wings
 He swept the strings
 Till Song leapt forth full dressed.

And, since that time
 Has song sublime
 Been bride of Venus' son,
 Still more divine
 Their hearts entwine—
 "Two hearts that beat as one."



The Angel of the Stars

I saw a vision in the night
 Float o'er the cloudy bars,
 With pinions strong that glimmered white—
 The Angel of the Stars!

What sweetness lit that lovely face
 I strive to tell in vain;
 And in her hands, with nameless grace,
 She held a starry chain.

And as she floated through the air
 With flames so crystalline,
 The heavens seemed a temple fair
 With altar lights a-shine,

Some stars were scarcely to be seen,
While others did dilate
And shone clear, steadfast and serene,
All solemn in their state,

Like many-colored gems enshrined,
Though some with lesser light;
Yet all in harmony combined
To make the heavens bright.

Methought how like poetic souls
You stars do throb and shine;
All rounding to the selfsame goals,
The beautiful—sublime!

And though beyond count multiplied,
Both stars and poets are
Yet by the same light glorified—
God's Singer and—the star!

Long watched I with dilated glance
That Angel form divine,
Till daylight woke me from my trance,
When stars no longer shine.

Love Me To-day

If you'll love me to-day,
I'll not ask you to-morrow;
A care for the future
I never will borrow,
And if for the present
The sunshine is bright,
I'll not think of the curfew
That tolls a good-night.

And since on this planet
All creatures must change,
That Love, too, should alter
Were not very strange.
Then ne'er will I languish
Or weep with regret
While one of Love's roses
Shall linger here yet.

The spirit of pleasure,
Love's here—Love is there
As fresh as a fountain,
As free as the air;
For, oh! should it happen
That love dragged a chain,
His beautiful pinions
Were given in vain!

Flower-Like

How lovely are the flowers fair!
More lovely still is woman;
The gods set ev'ry blossom there,
But left her sweetly human.

She wears the daisy's innocence,
The rose's blushing beauty;
Yet has no thorns for her defence,
But only love and duty.

And hers the destiny divine,
The mission of the flowers,
To purify, to raise, refine,
And gladden all the hours.

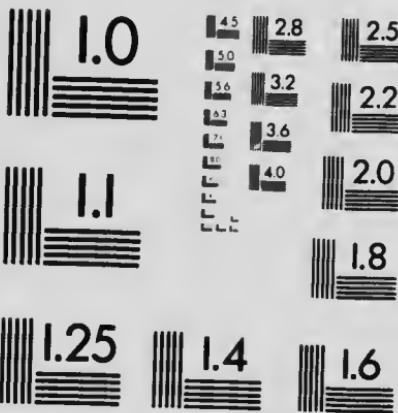
Oh! such her dainty elegance,
Like them she gives such pleasure
No praises can her charms enhance—
She is man's dearest treasure.

Yet, like the chaste mimosa rare,
From evil touch she's perished;
But, oh! how wondrous sweet and fair
When wisely loved and cherished!



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Bring Me Night Flowers

BRING me night flowers, all passion pale;
For those that bloom by day
Are all too cheerful, gay and bright
Till sunlight dies away;
When, like a silver star at night,
Shines forth the splendid Cereus white.

Night's Violet and Tuberose,
Far India's Jasmine red;
The fairy flowers of wondrous hue
That Love himself has wed;
As clothed in colors fresh and new,
She blushes through the gemlike dew.

Come, bring those flowers of silver light
That for the night are made;
Like them a lonely watch I keep,
And dwell within the shade;
So, when the world is all asleep,
They'll tell me, then, their secrets sweet!

Cupid

WHY do they paint the god of Love
A blind and chubby child,
With wings that ever seek to rove
In careless freedom wild?

Love is a youth, I often dream,
Who godlike is and strong;
With tender lips and eyes that beam,
And voice as sweet as song.

Ah, surely they have painted lies,
Who make him weak and small;
And, if they say he ever flies
They know not Love at all!

Snow Stars

PRETTY crystals of the air,
Floating round us everywhere;
Little stars so pure and bright,
Making all the world so white,
Surely Sinbad's diamond vale
Shone with lustre far more pale.

On each bud that felt a blight,
Now there rests a starry light;
For each gem of snow and ice
Is arranged in rare device;
Thus the fairies of the frost
Compensate for flowers lost.

Strange the snowflakes enter in
Such a world of woe and sin;
Lying in the crowded street,
Trampled by a thousand feet,
Brave and cheerful, pure and clear
Are the stars that cluster here!

The Beacon-Light

LIKE a fire in the snow of December
There glows in my heart a hot ember,
And I shiver and fever by turns,
Till my love-light now flickers—now burns.

Oh! I pray that my ember may last,
And I shield it from each wintry blast;
For a life is now tossed on the main,
I would guide to its haven again.

Love had built me a beautiful fire,
And it flamed ever higher and higher,
Till its golden-wreathed vapor enwrapt
Like a halo around the whole world.

But long waiting and wearying pain,
And the wet of my Life's bitter rain,
With the blast of the World's hate and scorn
Now have left but one ember forlorn.

There are some—ah! I know them full well,
Who would fling that red brand down to hell!
Oh! they know not that with *its* bright fire
My *own* life itself would expire.

So I pace on Life's sands to and fro,
As I watch its now fast fading glow,
And I question the wild wind and rain:
Can dead love ever kindle again?

Can my signal be seen from the shore?
Will the waves thus rush dark evermore?
Can he reach me out here in the night—
And with only Love's Beacon for light?



Mother, Dear Mother

MOTHER, dear mother; oh, what charm in that name!

Fairest of flowers in the garden of Fame!
No matter how far in strange countries we roam,
Our thoughts still fly back to dear mother and home.

Her smile has a sweetness, a tenderness, grace,
We turn from the fairest to gaze on her face;
And when in the future dear mother departs,
Her memory 'll live, still enshrined in our hearts.

She shares in our gladness and soothes our distress,
And banishes sorrow with fond tenderness;
Oh, if mortal be fit for bowers above,
'Tis mother, dear mother, earth's angel of love!

The Song of the Sea-Shell

"BEAUTIFUL shell of the ocean,
Now far from the sounding shore,
What is the music you murmur
So softly for evermore?
Is it the song of the mermaids
Sporting in bright coral caves?
Is it a dirge for the sailors
Sleeping beneath the blue waves?"

Thus, oft in my room at twilight
The children come from their play
To see my bright shell of ocean,
And ask me, "What does it say?"
I answer, pleasing my fancy,
Though foolish tears will oft start,
For I hear within the sea shell
The echo of my sad heart.

For there fond Memory's angel
Has folded her golden wings,
And oft she stirreth my spirit
As minstrel touches his strings;
And so in the dreamy twilight
She weaves her magical spell,
While soft is the music that murmurs,
As that of the sad sea shell.

"Farewell! to the caves of amber!"
Thus sings the shell of the sea;
And "Farewell!" my sad heart murmurs,
"My beloved one to thee!"
"Farewell" signs the plaintive pearl shell,
From sea flowers far apart;
And "Farewell!" more sadly echoes
The voice of my faithful heart!

Love's Looking-Glass

LOVE has a little looking-glass,
 'Tis made with cunning art;
And he has slyly hidden it
 Away within my heart.

Oh, 'tis a magic looking-glass,
 Where you yourself may see
The faithful mirror of my heart
 Reflecting only *thee*!

And never in that mirror shall
 Thy image cease to shine,
Till Love, in his own careless way,
 Shall break the glass divine.

Flirtation

So, you are "married," mon ami,
 And our "flirtation" is o'er;
 'Twas "pleasant, long as it lasted,"
 But, then, you— "never meant more"?

The eve we sat in the moonlight—
 That long and rapturous kiss—
 Those words you spoke of mad passion—
 They meant, monsieur, only this?

Well, hearts before have been broken
 By just such trifles, I ween;
 But, Tragedy's out of fashion—
 And, I am Comedy's queen.

My eyes like "stars" are still shining,
My curls yet gleaming like "gold"—
But madame's coffers are brighter—
Or, so, at least, I've been told.

Ambition your love may smother,
When rich and flattered you roam!
But, can you say, without falsehood,
That you are happy at home?

Don't think me proud or reproachful—
My heart's still happy and free—
For, I, too, pray, friend, remember,
Was only "flirting," you see!

The Star and the Nightingale

A NIGHTINGALE sang to a pure white Star
That calmly shone in the heavens afar;
"Beautiful, beautiful angel of light,
Be thou less distant, or be thou less bright.
By night and by day I pine, oh, I pine
To bask in the light of thy smiles div'ne,
Oh! fain I would soar to thy silver throne
And clasp thee, and call thee, My own, My own!"

And, thus, the Nightingale sings 'till he dies;
For, ah! the cold Star it never replies,
But, oh! 'tis the fairest dream of delight
That e'er illumined a sorrowful night,
To think that, sometimes, that lay of sweet love
Will reach the bright home of the Star above,
I believe it—although it may seem absurd—
For thou art the Star and my soul is the Bird!

Song of the Looking-Glass

SING the song of the Looking-glass,
The friend of ev'ry pretty lass;
With manners polished, and its look
Clear as the crystal, babbling brook.
Whate'er its station or its frame,
Like virtue, it still shines the same.
It flatters not, but tells the truth
To prince or peasant, age or youth.
A moral, too, it may convey,
If but to hear it you will stay;
The world's itself a Looking-glass,
Where many mirrored selves do pass;
If on it, now, you kindly smile
Your pleasure it reflects the while,
But, if with sour, ill-favored grace
This mirror shows you your own face.
Then learn by it that beauty's right;

Song of the Looking-Glass 99

And try to smile with all your might,
But one thing more I have to say
Ere from this theme we turn away;
Look thou but in this glass of mine,
Thou'llt see my own dear valentine;
Yet fear I when your face you view
Narcissus' fable will come true,
Who died while bending o'er the brook,
Enamored of his own fair look!

Claude Melnotte to Pauline

THEY say you are a lady—
As far beyond my love
As noonday sun in heaven
Is this dark earth above.
Yet were thy pride more lofty,
And were I twice as low,
Pygmalion-like my passion
Should make thy spirit glow.

And, though you were a seraph,
Bright with celestial charms,
I still should claim and clasp you
Within these peasant arms;
For ah! some secret power,
Majestic yet benign,
Has sealed our souls together
With its own fire divine!

The Poetry of Nature

THE face of Nature, how refined!
The mirror of a noble Mind;
No coarse or vulgar thought is there,
Where all is lovely—all is fair.

Or if a phalanx of dark clouds
One instant all the landscape shronds
Bright lightnings splendid banners form,
While majesty rides on the storm!

Of Nature's beauty let me sing—
Whose stars in crystal clusters cling;
Where flowers flaunt and fountains flow,
And golden suns above us glow.

Who does not feel the inward sense
Of joy, that lofty scenes dispense;
Or think the gale that round him sighs
Might lift his spirit to the skies?

Or when he sees the chaste moonshine
But grows himself almost divine;
As though some bright, celestial ray
Did mingle with his baser clay?

Oh, sweet the lessons to the soul
Man learns in Nature's mystic scroll;
He seeks a flower in the sod
And finds as well, it may be—God!



Our Flag

OUR bright flag is the emblem
Of freedom and right;
May we carry it ever,
For it bravely fight.

May the eagle of victory
Still proudly perch there,
When our "Star Spangled Banner"
Shall float on the air.

Let the Goddess of Liberty
Enlighten the world;
And the flag of our nation,
Oh! never be furled.

The Dearest Name

IF there's a name—a sacred name,
More dear than any other,
That echoes with a sound divine,
It is the name of mother.
The first in childhood's days we lisp,
The last we oft remember;
No other word is so supreme,
Has memories so tender.

How can I doubt that God is love,
When on my path of duty
He gives me such an angel guide
To His own Home of Beauty?
And, as my mother was the first
To greet me in life's morning,
May she be first to meet me there,
When heaven's light is dawning.

No place could be a paradise,
However bright its portal,
If, mother dear, you were not there,
The same, although immortal.
The dearest name on earth to me,
More pure than any other,
Affection's own, bright polar star—
The holy name of mother!

God's Garden

If flowers had a language,
I wonder what they'd say,
As flanming in the garden
They flutter all the day?
The rose, I think, would whisper love,
The snowdrop herald hope,
The lily lead our thoughts above,
And heaven try to ope,
But not one word of anger,
Of envy, or of fear,
From any child of Flora,
I think, we e'er should hear.

Yet are we not all flowers
That in Ge 's garden grow,
Some like the saintly lily,
Some with the rose's glow,

Some like the box, so useful,
That guards the garden bed,
Some like the bright sunflower
That rears aloft its head?
Some for their modest beauty,
Some for their strength, we prize;
For in each spirit petal
Some hidden virtue lies.

Yet, with neglect and scorning,
How oft is this forgot,
We pass by human flowers,
Alas! and heed them not.
But still the soul we see not,
Undaunted by our wiles,
Content with its own glory
Looks up to God, and smiles!

The Angel at the Helm

I WAS a wild lad, stranger,
And, seemed to be "hell bent";
But time, the great reformer,
Had taught me to repent.
The money I had taken
I longed, now, to restore;
To tread again the pathway
Before my mother's door.

I longed to ask her pardon,
And see her saintly face—
My brothers and my sisters,
And view the dear old place,
To turn their grief to gladness—
Set mother's heart at rest;
For, I had been her fav'rite—
The son that she loved best.

One scene I saw in fancy,
When I should cross the sea—
The time, 'twas seem'd glad Christmas
With its gift-bearing tree.
As "Santa Claus" I'd enter,
Dres't like that earl of old;
And, with a pack of playthings—
Likewise the stolen gold.

I saw the yule log blazing,
The mirth and mistletoe;
The little ones all crowding
Around the tree a-glow.
And, then the cry of rapture—
The quick, responsive start
Of mother, as the wand'rer
She presses to her heart!

Oh, yes! it is dear Noel
That brings "good will to men";
'Tis then that the sad exile
Would hope for home again.
Thence on I heard sweet music;
While with bright, mystic gleams
The golden star of Christmas
Kept shining in my dreams.

And mem'ries, vague but haunting,
Came stealing, soft and low;
While far, faint spirit voices
Kept urging me to go.
And, so for home I started
Across the salt sea wave,
To win my mother's pardon,
Or seek a sailor's grave.

* * *

The sea was bright and sparkling
When first we sailed the craft,
Which floated like a feather
While winds were fair abaft.
But, when the land no longer
A single eye could view,
A hurricane descended
That threatened ship and crew.

And fiercely flashed the lightning
Along the flapping sail;
The men grew faint and fearful
Who gazed upon the gale.
I felt myself a craven
With blanched and haggard cheek;
I feared the gold I'd hidden
Had made the good ship leak.

The Angel at the Helm III

I thought of the dear mother
I had not seen in years,
Whose prayers like white doves followed
Her sorrow and her tears,
Of mother, sweet and gentle—
And, of her broken heart,
If now, some guarding spirit
Did not its aid impart.

But, brighter dashed the lightning,
And higher dashed the waves,
Where many of my messmates
Had found their wat'ry graves.
Then called I upon heaven,
And prayed with all my soul
The ship might reach its harbor,
The golden store its goal.

And, as I called in anguish
Across the sea at night,
Methought I saw a spirit,
All clad in shining white,
And, kneeling down, I worshipped
Though waves sought to o'erwhelm;
For, lo! there stood as pilot
An angel at the helm!

And there he stood in glory
Until the dawn of day,
When, ocean's conflict over,
We anchored in the bay,
But, oft, again in fancy,
I see that raging tide,
The dark, dismantled vessel,
And bright, celestial guide!

* * *

So, that sweet scene I pictured
I, thus, was spared to see—
Dear mother and the children—
The candle-sparkling tree.
And to return the money,
With one repentant tear;
And cry, hurrah for Christmas,
The Monarch of the Year!

The Key-Note

WHEN a poet sings a song,
When a hero rights a wrong,
All the world will quickly thrill
Like a lyre struck at will!

For each life is but a part
Of a larger, nobler heart;
While thought echoes through the land
With a diapason grand.

Be that thought, then, yours or mine,
Let it sing and let it shine,
Like a star by music made,
And, no envy cast a shade.

Careless who received the praise,
As the sun is of its rays;
Let our hearts e'er vibrate still
Unison with mighty will.

So in this way, we create
Better music—better fate;
When no discord mars the plan,
God intends to uplift man.

With unselfishness of heart,
Knowledge that we are a part;
That the whole is only found
In one “concord of sweet sound.”

This the “Key-Note” we should seek,
When we act, and when we speak;
“Harmony” we sometimes call
What is love, and, love for all!

The Message from the Stars

LISTEN to the message

Coming from the stars,
Floating, now, like music
O'er the cloudy bars.
Not from one bright planet
Is the message sent,
But, from all that flicker
In the firmament.

Mars, that hero mighty,

Bids us to "be strong!"

Venus' verse is shorter,

"Love" is all her song.

Saturn sings, "Time's fleeting."

Mercury, "Be wise."

Jupiter, for greeting,

"Justice rules the skies."

116 The Message from the Stars

Let us learn these lessons
That the stars have sent,
Coming such a distance,
And in kindness meant,
That our souls may sparkle
Like the stars above,
And our lives show ever,
Wisdom, strength, and love.



You

Off, I thought I knew what love meant,
 But I never felt its power
 Till the day that God you sent
 To me, here, one happy hour.

Since that time I've felt a pleasure
 That I never knew before;
 And your heart's a sacred treasure
 That I worship and adore.

Other men may be as clever,
 Other men may be as true;
 Let them be as handsome ever,
 Yet they are not, dearest—you!

There's a secret charm that lingers,
Love, around thy form and face;
And in thy caressing fingers
Still some magic touch I trace.

Oh, were yon to cease to love me,
All my joy would fade away;
And not e'en the sun above me,
Then, could lend one cheering ray.

I might live to do my duty,
In the busy world take part;
But my life would have no beauty,
Like a desert be my heart.

Now, the world seems full of flowers,
And with melody the air;
And the zephyrs and the showers
Wake the earth to beauty rare.

While the light of summer's glory
Makes the heaven dazzling blue,
But the breezes tell the story
That 'tis all because of—you!

Only One Kiss

ONLY one kiss could yon give me,
Only one kiss—nothing more,
Twould open the pathway to Heaven,
And show dull sorrow the door.

Only one kiss could yon give me,
Sweet, magic manna of love!
Twould nerve, like Jove's own ambrosia,
And lift me all hunger above.

Only one kiss could you give me,
Twould fill with sunshine the day;
And give to remembrance a treasure,
Time never could take away.

Only one kiss could you give me,
No matter how far you might rove,
My lips would forever be wearing
That seal imprinted by love.

Only one kiss could you give me,
When clouds turn silver and gray,
Twould waken more music within me
Than Memnon's magical ray.

Only one kiss could you give me,
Darling, in secret—alone,
Twould give life's summer a sweetness,
Its springtime never has known.

Only one kiss could you give me,
Twould kindle a fire divine,
Till my soul with its sunlike splendor,
Should burst its cerements and shine.

Only one kiss could you give me,
Twould yield me lasting delight,
And hallow with hope all the future,
Forever our spirits unite!

Ladders to Heaven

The Lily of the Valley is sometimes called the May Lily; and is also called in some country villages "Ladders to Heaven"; while it signifies "Return to Happiness."

WHAT is fairer than a flower?
 Truly, 'tis a perfect thing;
 Beauty gives it magic power—
 Opes the golden gates of spring.

Poems they, more fine than ours,
 Where no feeble words appear;
 For an alphabet of flowers
 Shows us that a God writes here.

Yet, we deify the Rhymer,
 Who with metric skill has wrought;
 But neglect that scroll sublimer,
 Shining with angelic thought.

Learning not its happy story
Of contentment, peace and love;
Hinting of a higher glory,
And celestial joys above.

Sermons they, and brig't evangels,
Scattered over hills and dells;
Missals fallen from the angels
That the blessed time foretells.

Into every scene of ours
Still their magic sweetness blends;
And we find these fairy flowers
Coming always as our friends,

Roses the gay feast adorning;
Forget-me-nots for lovers true;
Buttercups for Childhood's morning;
And for Grief sad Harebells blue.

Decking e'en Death's gloomy bowers,
Cheering e'en the dreary tomb,
Lovely with immortal flowers,
Changeless, Amaranthus bloom.

Ladders, too, so frail that even
Fancy, now, half fearful tells
Souls may mount on them to Heaven
Stepping light on Lily bells!

Love's Sweetest Flowers

WITHIN a sunny garden fair
A youth and maiden stood,
The youth was handsome, tall and brave;
The maid was sweet and good,
Her eyes shone like two summer stars,
Like roses were her lips,
From which the little honey bee
Delicious nectar sips.

They wandered in that garden green,
And yet their words were few;
Both felt a sylvan gladness there,
But love to them was new.
At last the gentle maiden spoke,
Half longing to depart,
For fear the strange and handsome youth
Should hear her beating heart.

"What flower do you like the best?"

The bashful maiden said;

Then blushed beneath her bonnet's shade,

And shyly hung her head.

The youth, who loved a merry jest,

And loved the maid as well,

Said: "That, my dearest lady fair,

Will not be hard to tell.

"I like all lovely flowers, dear,

That in your garden grow,

Your roses and gay marigolds,

Your lilies white as snow,

Your pinks and pretty pimpernels,

Your dahlias and the rest—

But most, O dearest Mabel Lee,

I like your tulips best!"

A Little Heart

Oh! I had a little heart,
But 'twas broken by a dart,
By one of Cupid's tiny feathered toys.
It was just an idle game,
But it hurt me all the same,
In the cruel way of bad and careless boys.

But my sorrow now is ended,
For my heart is neatly mended,
And just as good as e'er it was before.
I've a new love to embrace—
So I wear a smiling face,
For my heart had room for just one lover more.

The Rainbow

THERE hung a rainbow in the air,
'Twas made of jewels, wondrous rare;
Of ruby, topaz, sapphire blue,
Of every size, and every hue.

Beneath that bright celestial arch
Life seemed a grand triumphal march,
And men would wonder and adore,
As still its light grew more and more.

One day it fell upon the ground!
And, all the jewels scattered round;
Some fell a-near, some rolled afar,
But, each one glittered like a star.

And men soon came with eager hands,
And took them to far, distant lands;
And built them temples dim and vast,
Each one more perfect than the last.

And many worshipped at each shrine,
And called those precious gems *divine*;
They named them *Faith* with solemn voice,
And bade the multitude, "Rejoice!"

But, when that arch was seen aright,
A splendid symphony of light,
They were the steps that led above
To God's own temple door of Love!

And ev'ry gem was needed there
To make *complete* that rainbow stair,
Where all gave light, in some degree,
And blent in perfect harmony!

Twine the Cross with Flowers

TWINE the heavy cross with flowers,
 Ye who weary burdens bear,
 And, by ever bravely smiling
 Help to make the world more fair;
 Useless 'tis, as truly selfish,
 Sad and gloomy to repine;—
 Sometimes, through the mists of sorrow
 Let Hope's lovely rainbow shine.

Birds sing fondly in their branches,
 But the wild beast seeks his lair;
 Thus should Sorrow oft be silent,
 Pleasure of its *largesse* share.
 Pile the dust and heavy ashes
 Over dead Hope's bleaching bones;—
 Be not like that ancient soldier,
 *O'er some Carthage making moans.

* Marius at the ruins of Carthage.

Twine the Cross with Flowers 129

As, among the flowers of Eden
 Evil Nightshade was forgot,
So, within the scroll Time's keeping
 Be *your* griefs remembered not;
All that's dark, and drear, and fearful
 Is by careful Nature hid;
But her stars and golden sunlight
 Shine on tent and pyramid!

I Cannot Forget Thee

LOVE, sweet love, I can never forget thee,
No matter, dear, how hard I may try;
Whatever th' time, or ever the place be,
Still on my lips there hovers a sigh.

Others may woo in lover-like fashion,
Yet, to me, now, like phantoms they seem;
Turning away from words of mad passion,
'Tis only of thee, my darling, I dream.

Though, now, forsaken—left sad and lonely,
Feeling thou hast grown altered and cold,
Yet I can think of thee, dearest, only,
Tender and true, as in times of old.

So, my days are a burden of sorrow,
And my long nights are filled with regret;
But I can hope for no brighter to-morrow,
For, love, alas, I cannot forget.

Love's Golden Throne

Is there a more exquisite feeling
On earth, or in heaven above,
As when in the heart there comes stealing
The first sweet emotions of love?

There's a glow, a glamor, a glory,
A brief foretaste of heavenly bliss;
For, oh, 'tis the best of Life's story,
When fond lips first meet in a kiss.

Oh, friendship is kind and oft tender,
And kinship has joys of its own;
But no star has ever such splendor
As shines upon Love's golden throne.

132 Love's Golden Throne

"Tis there prince and peasant come kneeling,
The poet, the soldier, the sage,
All bow before Love's master feeling,
That never dies, even with age.

The love of a man for a woman,
The love of a maid for a man,
To prevent, while hearts are still human,
No power on earth ever can.

Then fill up a bumper to Beauty,
And drink, now, to Youth and to Love;
To empty the goblet is duty,
With "Hurrah for Cupid above!"

The Lily's Transformation

I DREAMED the dove was once a lily fair,
Ere it found wings to soar the azure air;
And in the ground, with sweet and gentle grace,
Contented grew, like all her saintly race.

Till, looking up one night into the sky,
She saw a star, all shining clear and high,
And felt, or did the lovely flower dream,
Her breast received its brightest, sweetest beam.

And, thenceforth, with a fond and fatal gaze
The lily sought to meet those dazzling rays;
And, in the garden fair, began to pine
To share the throne of that bright star divine,

134 The Lily's Transformation

Till Venns, once, alighting from her shell,
Her glance upon the pallid lily fell,
And, seeing her so pensive, slim and white,
Her gaze still fixed upon that distant light,

Took pity on the lily, sweet and fair,
And gave her wings to beat the upper air;
So, changed her to a pure and snowy dove—
The winged messenger of ardent love.

Then watched her soar above the cloudy bars,
Until she reached the shining Home of Stars.
But, oh, 'twould need an angel's golden pen
To tell the transformed lily's rapture then!

Oh, would that Venns — bright, celestial
queen—
Again upon this dreary earth were seen,
That all might learn the magic spells and art,
And lovers never languish far apart!



In Memoriam—Edwin Booth

"The last, best birth, with his last breath
Came in the dark disguise of death."

A BETTER birth there scarce can be
Than that which God gave here to thee;
A sparkling eye; a soul serene;
A classic face; majestic mien;
A tender heart; a lucid mind;
With disposition sweet and kind.

136 In Memoriam -Edwin Booth

All that the fairies gave of yore,
God gladly gave to thee—and more;
For He gave Genies' master spell;
Protean skill sublime, as well;
With pensive beauty to entrance;
And made thee king of all romance.
But now Death's certain dark comes down
On comic smile and tragic frown;
And thou we loved, esteemed the most,
Now to our hearts forever lost.
In vain we cry "Return once more!"
Thy spirit plumes its wings to soar;
While like the sun at close of day
Thy splendid life now fades away.
So, every shadow from thee cast,
May angels welcome thee at last,
To reverent silence leave the rest --
God in His wisdom knows what's best;
But, if a better birth there be,
May God give that above to thee!

Love Versus Learning

"Love laughs at locksmiths," so 'tis said,
And oft at ladies, too,
But mostly when, indeed, they tint
Their pretty stockings "blue,"
For Love and Learning are not friends,
And oft I've heard men say,
Whene'er Minerva comes to call
Boy Cupid flies away.

For, ink, it is a darksome thing,
That will fair fingers soil,
And how can ladies' eyes be bright
Who burn the "midnight oil?"
So if you would a lover win,
Oh, don't write odes or sonnets!
And never look a book within—
But buy becoming bonnets!

Pandora's Box

PANDORA was a maiden,
And lived in Greece, 'tis said,
Who, many writers tell us,
Has centuries been dead.
The gods sent down a casket,
All carved and wondrous rare,
And gave it as a present
To sweet Pandora fair.

They told her to preserve it,
And never look within;
For, just to lift the cover
Would be a mortal sin.
But Miss P. was a woman
Whose passion was to find
Out everything forbidden,
Of any sort or kind.

So curious and prying
Was this young Grecian maid,
She lifted up the cover,
Although almost afraid,
Out jumped a hundred devils,
Who filled the world with woe,
And only Hope, fair angel,
Stayed in the box below.

Alas! for poor Pandora;
Alas! for all who peek
Into the future, prying.
Some treasure there to seek,
Better to wait in patience
Till time shall lift the lid;
And when by gods commanded,
Best do as you are bid.

* * * * *

The New Year is a casket
Containing gifts for thee,
But what is hid within it—
Oh, wait until you see;
And, though a few dark sorrows
May still be hidden there,
Find Peace, and Love, and Pleasure,
And Hope—bright angel fair!



To My Father

Augustus K. Gardner, M.D.

DEAR FATHER! shall you, then, be soon *forgot*,
And all your noble deeds remembered not?
Oh, no! no star *unmissed* from heaven shall fall,
How then the *best* and *brightest* of them all!

Thy mind like Mercury must travel space,
And leave *somewhere* its true and shining trace;
Though gone from here—we know it to our cost—
Yet, in God's universe there's nothing *lost*.

Some World is *richer* for thy lucid mind;
Thy cultured skill; thy heart so fond and kind;
Perchance thy soul leads lustre to yon star
That, now, I watch with longing from afar!

I know not; but, such things, perchance, may be;
Imagination on her wings flies free—
Soars to the stars—yet, ever back returns.
The Truth we know not till we *leave our urns*.

The Weavers

THROUGH the busy loom of Fancy
Quickly flies the shuttle Thought,
Weaving threads of gold and silver,
Till the shining fabric's wrought.

Seldom is that shuttle idle
In the workshop of the brain ;
For within the loom of Fancy
Rust must never leave a stain.

There the patient poet weavers
Make their tapestries sublime,
That the ages shall see hanging
On the lofty halls of Time.

Delicate, fantastic fabrics
Ornament that sacred place,
Whose divine and noble meaning,
Golden threads, the patterns trace.

Stars of song, and sylvan sonnets,
Shining on the walls of Fame;
Lighting up the mystic future,
Like God's warning words of flame.

Tapestries and golden banners
Flying on th' towers of Time;
Glorious armorial bearings
Heralding a race sublime.

But those plodding poet-weavers
Seldom see reward ahead;
On their tapestries of beauty
Weaving ever until dead.

Only, when the loom grows idle,
Then at last their skill is learned;
When their mystic work is over,
And the web is loosed and turned.

Always the Same

ALWAYS the same, sweet, for Time cannot change
thee,

Or rob one sweet charm that endears thee to me;
To break Love's bright chains he may try ev'ry
art,

But Time has no power, dear, over the heart.

Thine eyes may lose lustre, thy cheeks their fair
bloom,

But compassion will glow—those lamps will
relume,

And Memory's moonbeams, with sweet, tender
grace,

Will make a bright halo around thy dear face.

The eyes most majestic are those of the mind,
With those I shall see thee still, beautiful, kind;
And never thy sway or thy splendor decrease
In this heart, where Love holds his fair diocese.

Always the same, sweet, never faded or old,
For Sympathy turns all she touches to gold;
As oft on an altar there lie the bright sheaves,
Shall Love on the past lay his beautiful leaves.

Like the dove from the ark, my heart has found
rest,
And never will wander, now, far from its nest;
Across the wide waters of Life's stormy sea
It flies with this token of love, dear, to thee.

Always the same, sweet. Love is surely sublime
When he holds in his hands the balance of time;
So serenely secure, now, move on thy way
Without fear of th' future, or any dismay.

Thy beauty will shine through the veil of the
years,
Uninjured by Time, and undimmed, still, by
tears,
As bright and unclouded as yon silver star,
That shines with soft splendor in heaven afar!

The Death of Summer

AUTUMN leaves are flying,
Autumn breezes sighing—

Summer now is dead;
While around her coffin
Shines the saffron, often,
And the sumac red.

While the leaves, like topaz,
Jewels that were bright as

E'er a princess wore,
Tarnished are and rusty,
Turning dark and dusty,
Like the buds before.

Yet the Year, though olden,
Wears a crown still golden,
Seated on his throne;

And in robes of mourning,
Now all comfort scorning,
Grieveth sore, alone,

For he's sadly dreaming
Of the bright eyes beaming
 Of his lovely queen;
With her scarf so airy,
Shining like a fairy
 In her kirtle green.

But in gladder hours,
Summer, with her flowers
 In still brighter bloom,
Will be home returning,
Like Alcestis, yearning,
 From the gloomy tomb.

Though the clouds are crying,
And all Nature sighing,
 Summer will revive;
And in wifely duty,
Come in all her beauty
 To her lord—alive!

I Long for You

I LONG for you, my darling, though distant now
you roam,
I long for you as fondly as exiles long for home;
As captives for their freedom, or flowers for the
sun,
Or sinners in perdition for heaven they might
have won.

You are my home and sunshine, my night of
starry skies;
Wherever you are straying there, too, my heaven
lies.
No song of eastern bulbul has such entrancing
note
As that which bursts like magic in music from
your throat.

I long for you, my darling; love like Minerva
sprang,
Full armed within my bosom, "sudden as
trumpet's clang";
Or like a rushing river, whose broad and gushing
tide
Spreads onward o'er the meadow—a world of
waters wide.

Or like a forest fire, that winding through
gloomy wood,
Sweeps shrubs and trees before it where stately
once they stood,
Whose lurid waves triumphant leap gleaming to
the sky,
And leaves like bright stars falling all frantic
flutter by.

I long for you, my darling; love conquers fear
and shame;
'Tis stronger than a river—more fiery far than
flame;
'Tis like a lovely angel that beckons one in
dreams,
And dapples night to daylight with bright and
dazzling gleams.

I long for you, my darling! Oh, must I long in vain?
If so, this living temple will soon be rent in twain,
Thou ne'er canst find another such constant heart as mine,
'Tis Nature's own crown jewel, and, oh, 'tis only thine!

Before We Met

I LOVE you not as mortals love,
But as the angels do—
With passion that all self above
Is tender, pure, and true.

You are the one I long have sought,
The very soul of me;
And lie within my loving thought,
Like pearl within the sea.

I kneel as if before a shrine,
Nor fear to break the spell;
To me you seem almost divine,
I love so wildly well.

Before we met I wandered lone,
A "dark star" of the night;
Til, and on meeting you, my own,
My soul at once grew bright.

And never shall love's splendor die
Within me, even at heart,
Till the sun sail from the sky,
And sun and moon depart.

Illusion

Life's fairy Illusions, oh! long let us cherish;
Which, like clouds at sunset, illumine our way;
Lest, like flow'rs forsaken, neglected they perish,
And leave Life like winter—cold, barren, and
gray.

'Tis Illusion, alone, whose silver veil shineth
'Round the skeleton forms that sit at Life's
feast,
And hides with the beautiful wreaths she en-
twineth,
The features of Fate, false Mokanna-like
priest.

'Tis Illusion changes a dream to a vision,
And that gives to the lovely, ethereal charms;
And shines like the cloud; oh, so brilliant,
Elysian,
Bold Ixion once madly caught in his arms.

'Tis Illusion alone gives wings to the real;
Who lights with her splendor the common-
place day;
And crowns with a halo fair Fancy's ideal,
Whose glory, oh! never should fade, here,
away!

