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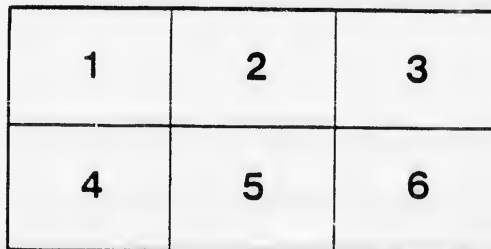
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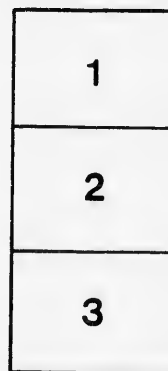
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Christmas, 1870

Miss Ethel Smith

with the best wishes
of the season from

Arch^d & Maud
Lampman

THE MEADOW.

Here when the cloudless April days begin,
And the quaint crows tick tick day by day,
Filling the forests with a pleasant din,
And the soiled snow creeps secretly away,
Comes the small busy sparrow, primed with glee,
First preacher in the naked wilderness,
Piping an end to all the long distress
From every fence and every leafless tree.

Now with soft slight and viewless artifice
Winter's iron work is wondrously undone:
In all the little hollows cured with ice
The clear brown pools stand shimmering in the sun.
Fral lured worlds, upon whose tremulous floors
All day the wandering water-lings at will,
Shy mariners whose oars are never still,
Voyage and dream about the heightening shores.

The bluebird peeping from the garbled thorn
Prattles upon his frolic lute, or flings,
In bounding flight across the golden morn,
An azure gleam from off his splendid wings,
Here the slim phiboned swallows sweep and pass
Down to the far off river: the black crow
With wise and wary visage to and fro
Settles and stalks about the withered grass.

Here when the murmurous May-day is half gone
The watchful lark before my feet takes flight,
And wheeling to some lonelier field far on,
Drops with obstreperous cry: and here at night,
When the first star precedes the great red moon,
The shore lark tinkles from the darkening field,
Somewhere we know not in the dusk concealed,
His little creakling and continuous tune.

Here too the robins, lusty as of old,
Hunt the waste grass for forage, or prolong
From every quarter of these fields the bob,
Blithe phrases of their never finished song.
The white throat's distant descent with slow stress,
Note after note upon the noonday falls,
Filling the leisured air at intervals
With his own mood of piercing pensiveness.

Often, how often, from this upland perch,
Mine eyes have seen the forest break in bloom,
The rose-red maple and the golden birch,
The dusty yellow of the elms, the gloom
Of the tall poplar hung with tasseled black,
Ah, I have watched till eye and ear and brain
Grew full of dreams as they, the noted plain,
The sun steeped wood, the marshland at its back,

The valley where the river wheels and fills,
You city glimmering in its smoky shroud,
And out at the last misty rim the hills
Blue and far off and mounded like a cloud,
And here the noisy rattled road that goes
Down the slope yonder, flanked on either side
With the smooth-furrowed fields thung black and wide,
Patched with pale water sleeping in the rows

So as I watched the crowded leaves expand,
The bloom break sheathe, the summer's strength uprear
In earth's great mother's heart already planned
The heaped and burgeoned plenty of the year,
Even as she from out her wintered hearse
My spirit also sprang to life anew,
And day by day as the spring's bounty grew,
The fabric'd dream unlocked the font of verse.

In reverie by day and midnight dream
I sought these upland fields and walked apart,
Musing on nature, till my thought did seem
To read the very secrets of her heart;
In mused moments earnest and sublime
I stored the themes of many a future song,
Whose substance should be nature's clear and strong,
Bound in basket of majestic rhyme.

Brave bud-like plans that never reached the fruit,
Like her's our mother's who with every hour,
Easily replenished from the sleepless root,
Covers her bosom with fresh bud and flower:
Yet I was happy as young lovers be,
Who in the season of their passion's birth
Deem that they have their utmost worship's worth,
If love be near them, just to hear and see

SUNSET AT LES EBOULEMENTS.

Broad shadows fall. On all the mountain side
The scythe-swept fields are silent. Slowly home
By the long beach the high-piled hay carts come,
Splashing the pale salt shallows. Over wide
Fawn coloured wastes of mud the slipping tide,
Round the dun rocks and watted fisheries,
Creeps unrumbling in. And now by twos and threes,
O'er the slow-spreading pools with clamorous child,
Belated crows from strip to strip take flight.
Soon will the first star shine: yet ere the night
Reach onward to the pale green distance,
The sun's last shaft beyond the grey sea-floor
Still dreams upon the Kamouraska shore,
And the long line of golden villages.

ARCHIBALD LAMPMAN.

ABOVE SAINT IRÉNÉE.

I climbed the lofty road between
The river and the northern hills,
And rested leisurely,
To watch the mighty river flow,
With all its miles of shade and sheen
Down to the mighty sea,
And far beneath me resting low
The village of Saint Irénée.

The supple hills on either hand
Broke down upon the alluvial tide,
The river ran in streams,
In streams of mingled azure-grey
With here a broken purple band,
And whorls of drab, and beams
Of shattered silver light astray
Where far away the south shore gleams.

I walked a mile along the height
Between the towers upon the road,
Asters and golden rod ;
And in the gardens plinks and stocks,
And gaudy poppies shaking light,
And daisies blooming near the sod,
And lowly pansies set in docks
With purple monkshood overawed.

And there I saw a little child
Upon the summit of a hill
Coming along to me,
She was a tender little thing,
So fragile-sweet, so Mary-mild,
I thought her name Marie ;
No other name methought could cling
To anything so fair as she.

And when we came at last to meet,
I spoke a simple word to her,
" Where are you going Marie ? "
She answered and she did not smile,
But oh, her voice,—her voice so sweet,
" Down to Saint Irénée, "
And so passed on to walk a r. mile,
And left the lonely road to me.

And as the night came on apace
With stars above the darkened hills,
I heard perpetually,
Chiming along the falling hours,
On the deep disk that mellow phrase,
" Down to Saint Irénée ! "
It seemed as if the stars and flowers
Should all go there with me.

FROM LES EBOULEMENTS.

A glamour on the phantom shore
Of golden pallid green,
Grey purple in the dats before,
The river streams between.
From hazy hamlets, one by one,
Beyond the island bars,
The enclosures in the setting sun
Flash back in violet stars.
A brig is straining out for sea,
To Norway or to France she goes,
And all her happy flags are free,
Her sails are dished with rose.

TO HELEN DOUGLAS MACCOUN.

Goodness gracious ! little girl,
You are going to cry ;
Why, your under lip's acurl !
What's that in your eye ?
Keep the naughty tears tight
Back behind the blue,
You know we can't have sunlight
And rainy weather too.
If you let the tears come,
With their ugly stains,
You will be an lundrum
Beaten by the rains.
But if you let the smiles get
A chance to breathe and run,
You will be a violet,
Underneath the sun.

DUNCAN CAMPBELL SCOTT.

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