



THE WATCHMAN
and OTHER POEMS

BY L. M. MONTGOMERY, AUTHOR OF
"ANNE OF GREEN GABLES," ETC.

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DEDICATION

"TO THE MEMORY OF THE GALLANT
CANADIAN SOLDIERS WHO HAVE LAID
DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY
AND THEIR EMPIRE."

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THE WATCHMAN

THE WATCHMAN

"And for fear of Him the keepers did shake and become as dead men." Matthew 23 and 4.

My Claudia, it is long since we have met,
 So kissed, so held each other heart to heart !
 I thought to greet thee as a conqueror comes,
 Bearing the trophies of his prowess home,
 But Jove hath willed it should be otherwise
 Jove, say I ? Nay, some mightier stranger-god
 Who thus hath laid his heavy hand on me,
 No victor, Claudia, but a broken man
 Who seeks to hide his weakness in thy love.

How beautiful thou art! The years have brought
 An added splendor to thy loveliness,
 With passion of dark eye and lip rose-red
 Struggling between its dimple and its pride.
 And yet there is somewhat that glooms between
 Thy love and mine; come, girdle me about
 With thy true arms, and pillow on thy breast
 This aching and bewildered head of mine;
 Here, where the fountain glitters in the sun
 Among the saffron lilies, I will tell
 If so that words will answer my desire
 The shameful fate that hath befallen me.
 Down in Jerusalem they slew a man,
 Or god it may be that he was a god

Those mad, wild Jews whom Pontius Pilate rules.

Thou knowest Pilate, Claudia a vain man,
 Too weak to govern such a howling horde
 As those same Jews. This man they crucified.
 I knew nought of him had not heard his name
 Until the day they dragged him to his death;
 Then all tongues wagged about him and his deeds ;
 Some said that he had claimed to be their King,
 Some that he had blasphemed their deity ;
 'Twas certain he was poor and meanly born,
 No warrior he, nor hero ; and he taught
 Doctrines that surely would upset the world;
 And so they killed him to be rid of him
 Wise, very wise, if he were only man,
 Not quite so wise if he were half a god!

I know that strange things happened when he died

There was a darkness and an agony,

And some were vastly frightened not so I !

What cared I if that mob of reeking Jews

Had brought a nameless curse upon their heads?

I had no part in that blood-guiltiness.

At least he died; and some few friends of his

I think he had not very many friends

Took him and laid him in a garden tomb.

A watch was set about the sepulchre,

Lest these, his friends, should hide him and proclaim

That he had risen as he had fore-told.

Laugh not, my Claudia. I laughed when I heard

The prophecy. I would I had not laughed !

I, Maximus, was chosen for the guard
 With all my trusty fellows. Pilate knew
 I was a man who had no foolish heart
 Of softness all unworthy of a man!
 My eyes had looked upon a tortured slave
 As on a beetle crushed beneath my tread;
 I gloried in the splendid strife of war,
 Lusting for conquest ; I had won the praise
 Of our stern general on a scarlet field;
 Red in my veins the warrior passion ran,
 For I had sprung from heroes, Roman born!

That second night we watched before the tomb;
 My men were merry; on the velvet turf,
 Bestarred with early blossoms of the Spring,

They dined with jest and laughter; all around
 The moonlight washed us like a silver lake,
 Save where that silent, sealed sepulchre
 Was hung with shadow as a purple pall.
 A faint wind stirred among the olive boughs
 Methinks I hear the sighing of that wind
 In all sounds since, it was so dumbly sad;
 But as the night wore on it died away
 And all was deadly stillness; Claudia,
 That stillness was most awful, as if some
 Great heart had broken and so ceased to beat!
 I thought of many things, but found no joy
 In any thought, even the thought of thee;
 The moon waned in the west and sickly grew

Her light sucked from her in the breaking dawn
 Never was dawn so welcome as that pale,
 Faint glimmer in the cloudless, brooding sky!

Claudia, how may I tell what came to pass?
 I have been mocked at when I told the tale
 For a crazed dreamer punished by the gods
 Because he slept on guard; but mock not thou!
 I could not bear it if thy lips should mock
 The vision dread of that Judean morn.

Sudden the pallid east was all aflame
 With radiance that beat upon our eyes
 As from noonday sun; and then we saw
 Two shapes that were as the immortal gods
 Standing before the tomb; around me fell
 My men as dead; but I, though through my veins
 Ran a cold tremor never known before,
 Withstood the shock and saw one shining shape
 Roll back the stone; the whole world seemed ablaze,
 And through the garden came a rushing wind
 Thundering a paean as of victory.

Then that dead man came forth! Oh, Claudia,
 If thou couldst't but have seen the face of him!
 Never was such a conqueror! Yet no pride
 Was in it nought but love and tenderness,
 Such as we Romans scoff at; and his eyes
 Bespoke him royal. Oh, my Claudia,
 Surely he was no Jew but very god!

Then he looked full upon me. I had borne
 Much staunchly, but that look I could not bear!

What man may front a god and live? I fell
 Prone, as if stricken by a thunder bolt;
 And, though I died not, somewhat of me died
 That made me man. When my long stupor passed
 I was no longer Maximus I was
 A weakling with a piteous woman-soul,
 All strength and pride, joy and ambition gone
 My Claudia, dare I tell thee what foul curse
 Is mine because I looked upon a god?

I care no more for glory; all desire
 For conquest and for strife is gone from me,
 All eagerness for war; I only care
 To help and heal bruised beings, and to give
 Some comfort to the weak and suffering.
 I cannot even hate those Jews; my lips
 Speak harshly of them, but within my heart
 I feel a strange compassion; and I love
 All creatures, to the vilest of the slaves
 Who seem to me as brothers! Claudia,
 Scorn me not for this weakness; it will pass
 Surely 'twill pass in time and I shall be
 Maximus strong and valiant once again,
 Forgetting that slain god! and yet and yet
 He looked as one who could not be forgot!

SONGS OF THE SEA

RAIN ALONG SHORE

Van white mists upon the sea,
 East wind harping mournfully
 All the sunken reefs along,
 Wail and heart-break in its song,
 But adown the placid bay
 Fisher-folk keep holiday.

All the deeps beyond the bar
 Call and murmur from afar,
 'Plaining of a mighty woe
 Where the great ships come and go,
 But adown the harbor gray
 Fisher-folk keep holiday.

When the cloudy heavens frown,
 And the sweeping rain comes down,
 Boats at anchorage must bide
 In despite of time or tide;
 Making merry as they may
 Fisher-folk keep holiday.

Now is time for jest and song

All the idle shore along,
 Now is time for wooing dear,
 Maidens cannot choose but hear ;
 Daffing toil and care away
 Fisher-folk keep holiday.

11

Oh, the fretted reefs may wail,
 Every man has furled his sail!
 Oh, the wind may moan in fear,
 Every lad is with his dear!
 Mirth and laughter have their way,
 Fisher-folk keep holiday.

12

SEA SUNSET

A gallant city has been builded far

In the pied heaven,
 Bannered with crimson, sentinelled by star

Of crystal even;
 Around a harbor of the twilight glowing,
 With jubilant waves about its gateways flowing.

A city of the Land of Lost Delight

On seas enchanted,
 Presently to be lost in mist moon-white

And music-haunted;
 Given but briefly to our raptured vision,
 With all its opal towers and shrines elysian.

Had we some mystic boat with pearly oar

And wizard pilot,
 To guide us safely by the siren shore

And cloudy islet,
 We might embark and reach that shining portal
 Beyond which linger dreams and joys immortal.

But we may only gaze with longing eyes

On those far, sparkling
 Palaces in the fairy-peopled skies,

O'er waters darkling,
 Until the winds of night come shoreward roaming,
 And the dim west has only gray and gloaming.

13

WHEN THE DARK COMES DOWN

When the dark comes down, oh, the wind is on the sea

With lispings laugh and whimper to the red reef's
threnody,

The boats are sailing homeward now across the har-
bor bar

With many a jest and many a shout from fishing
grounds afar.

So furl your sails and take your rest, ye fisher folk
so brown,

For task and quest are ended when the dark comes
down.

When the dark comes down, oh, the landward valleys
fill

Like brimming cups of purple, and on every landward
hill

There shines a star of twilight that is watching ever-
more

The low, dimlighted meadows by the long, dimlighted
shore,

For there, where vagrant daisies weave the grass a
silver crown,

The lads and lassies wander when the dark comes
down.

14

When the dark comes down, oh, the children fall

asleep,
And mothers in the fisher huts their happy vigils keep ;
There's music in the song they sing and music on the

sea,
The loving, lingering echoes of the twilight's litany,
For toil has folded hands to dream and care has

ceased to frown,
And every wave's a lyric when the dark comes down.

15

HARBOR MOONRISE

There is never a wind to sing o'er the sea
 On its dimpled bosom that holdeth in fee
 Wealth of silver and magicry;
 And the harbor is like to an ebon cup
 With mother-o'-pearl to the lips lined up,
 And brimmed with the wine of entranced delight,
 Purple and rare, from the flagon of night.

Lo, in the east is a glamor and gleam,
 Like waves that lap on the shores of dream,
 Or voice their lure in a poet's theme!
 And behind the curtseying fisher boats
 The barge of the rising moon upfloats,
 The pilot ship over unknown seas
 Of treasure-laden cloud argosies.

Ere ever she drifts from the ocean's rim,
 Out from the background of shadows dim,
 Steal eth a boat o'er her golden rim
 Noiselessly, swiftly, it swayeth by
 Into the bourne of enchanted sky,
 Like a fairy shallop that seeks the strand
 Of a far and uncharted fairyl and.

16

Now, ere the sleeping winds may stir,
 Send, O, my heart, a wish with her,
 Like to a venturesome mariner;
 For who knoweth but that on an elfin sea
 She may meet the bark that is sailing to thee,
 And, winging thy message across the foam,
 May hasten the hour when thy ship comes home?

17

BEFORE STORM

There's a grayness over the harbor like fear on the
 face of a woman,
 The sob of the waves has a sound akin to a woman's
 cry,
 And the deeps beyond the bar are moaning with evil
 presage
 Of a storm that will leap from its lair in that dour
 north-eastern sky.

Slowly the pale mists rise, like ghosts of the sea, in
 the offing,
 Creeping all wan and chilly by headland and sunken
 reef,
 And a wind is wailing and keening like a lost thing
 'mid the islands,
 Boding of wreck and tempest, plaining of dolor and
 grief.

Swiftly the boats come homeward, over the grim bar
 crowding,
 Like birds that flee to their shelter in hurry and
 affright,
 Only the wild grey gulls that love the cloud and the
 clamor
 Will dare to tempt the ways of the ravining sea
 to-night.

18

But the ship that sailed at the dawning, manned by
 the lads who love us
 God help and pity her when the storm is loosed on
 her track!
 O women, we pray to-night and keep a vigil of sorrow
 For those we speed at the dawning and may never
 welcome back!

19

ON THE BAY

When the salt wave laps on the long, dim shore,
 And frets the reef with its windy sallies,
 And the dawn's white light is threading once more
 The purple firs in the landward valleys,
 While yet the arms of the wide gray sea

Are cradling the sunrise that is to be,
 The fisherman's boat, through the mist afar,
 Has sailed in the wake of the morning star.

>

The wind in his cordage and canvas sings
 Its old glad song of strength and endeavor,
 And up from the heart of the ocean rings
 A call of courage and cheer forever;
 Toil and danger and stress may wait
 Beyond the arch of the morning's gate,
 But he knows that behind him, upon the shore,
 A true heart prays for him evermore.

When a young moon floats in the hollow sky,
 Like a fairy shallop, all pale and golden,
 And over the rocks that are grim and high,

The lamp of the light-house aloft is holden;
 When the bay is like to a lucent cup
 With glamor and glory and glow filled up,
 In the track of the sunset, across the foam
 The fisherman's boat comes sailing home.

20

The wind is singing a low, sweet song
 Of a rest well won and a toil well over,
 And there on the shore shines clear and strong
 The star of the homelight to guide the rover
 And deep unto deep may call and wail
 But the fisherman laughs as he furls his sail,
 For the bar is passed and the reef is dim
 And a true heart is waiting to welcome him

21

SHORE TWILIGHT

Lo, find we here when the ripe day is o'er,
 A kingdom of enchantment by the shore!

Behold the sky with early stars ashine,
 A jewelled flagon brimmed with purple wine.

Like a dumb poet's soul the troubled sea
 Means of its joy and sorrow wordlessly;

But the glad winds that utter naught of grief
 Make silver speech by headland and by reef.

Saving for such there is no voice or call
 To mar the gracious silence over all

Silence so tender 'tis a sweet caress,
 A most beguiling and dear loneliness.

Lo, here we find a beckoning solitude,
 A winsome presence to be mutely wooed,

Which, being won, will teach us fabled lore,
 The old, old, gramarye of the sibyl shore!

Oh, what a poignant rapture thus to be
 Lingerin' at twilight by the ancient sea!

22

SONG OF THE SEA-WIND

When the sun sets over the long blue wave

I spring from my couch of rest,
 And I hurtle and boom over leagues of foam

That toss in the weltering west,
 I pipe a hymn to the headlands high,

My comrades forevermore,
 And I chase the tricky curls of foam

O'er the glimmering sandy shore.

The moon is my friend on clear, white nights

When I ripple her silver way,
 And whistle blithely about the rocks

Like an elfin thing at play;
 But anon I ravin' with cloud and mist

And wail 'neath a curdled sky,
 When the reef snarls yon like a questing beast,

And the frightened ships go by.

I scatter the dawn across the sea

Like wine of amber flung
 From a crystal goblet all far and fine

Where the morning star is hung;
 I blow from east and I blow from west

Wherever my longing be
 The wind of the land is a hindered thing

But the ocean wind is free !

23

MORNING ALONG SHORE

Hark, oh hark the elfin laughter

All the little waves along,
As if echoes speeding after

Mocked a merry merman's song!

All the gulls are out, delighting
In a wild, uncharted quest

See the first red sunshine smiting
Silver sheen of wing and breast!

Ho, the sunrise rainbow-hearted
Steals athwart the misty brine,

And the sky where clouds have parted
Is a bowl of amber wine!

Sweet, its cradle-lilt partaking,
Dreams that hover o'er the sea,

But the lyric of its waking
Is a sweeter thing to me!

Who would drowse in dull devotion
To his ease when dark is done,

And upon its breast the ocean
Like a jewel wears the sun?

"Up, forsake a lazy pillow!"
Calls the sea from cleft and cave,

Ho, for antic wind and billow
When the morn is on the wave !

24

OFF TO THE FISHING GROUND

There's a piping wind from a sunrise shore

Blowing over a silver sea,
There's a joyous voice in the lapsing tide

That calls enticingly;
The mist of dawn has taken flight

To the dim horizon's bound,

And with wide sails set and eager hearts
 We're off to the fishing ground.
 Ho, comrades mine, how that brave wind sings
 Like a great sea-harp afar!
 We whistle its wild notes back to it
 As we cross the harbor bar.
 Behind us there are the homes we love
 And hearts that are fond and true,
 And before us beckons a strong young day
 On leagues of glorious blue.
 Comrades, a song as the fleet goes out,
 A song of the orient sea!
 We are the heirs of its tingling strife,
 Its courage and liberty.
 Sing as the white sails cream and fill,
 And the foam in our wake is long,
 Sing till the headlands black and grim
 Echo us back our song!

25

Oh, 'tis a glad and heartsome thing
 To wake ere the night be done
 And steer the course that our fathers steered
 In the path of the rising sun.
 The wind and welkin and wave are ours
 Wherever our bourne is found,
 And we envy no landsman his dream and sleep
 When we're off to the fishing ground.

26

IN PORT

Out of the fires of the sunset come we again to our
 own
 We have girdled the world in our sailing under
 many an orient star;
 Still to our battered canvas the scents of the spice
 gales cling,
 And our hearts are swelling within us as we cross

the harbor bar.

Beyond are the dusky hills where the twilight hangs
in the pine trees,
Below are the lights of home where are watching
the tender eyes
We have dreamed of on fretted seas in the hours of
long night-watches,
Ever a beacon to us as we looked to the stranger
skies.

Hark! how the wind comes out of the haven's arms
to greet us,
Bringing with it the song that is sung on the ancient
shore!
Shipmates, furl we our sails we have left the seas
behind us,
Gladly finding at last our homes and our loves once
more.

21

THE GULLS

I
Soft is the sky in the mist-kirtled east,

Light is abroad on the sea,
All of the heaven with silver is fleeced,

Holding the sunrise in fee.
Lo! with a flash and uplifting of wings

Down where the long ripple^e break,
Cometh a bevy of glad-hearted things,

'Tis morn, for the gulls are awake.

II

Slumberous calm on the ocean and shore

Comes with the turn of the tide;
Never a strong-sweeping pinion may soar,

Where the tame fishing-boats ride!
Far and beyond in blue deserts of sea,

Where the wild winds are at play,
There may the spirits of sea-birds be free

'Tis noon, for the gulls are away.

III

Over the rim of the sunset is blown

Sea-dusk of purple and gold,
Speed now the wanderers back to their own,

Wings the most tireless must fold.

Homeward together at twilight they flock,
 Sated with joys of the deep,
 Drowsily huddled on headland and rock
 'Tis night, for the gulls are asleep.

28

SUNRISE ALONG SHORE

Atwart the harbor lingers yet
 The ashen gleam of breaking day,
 And where the guardian cliffs are set
 The noiseless shadows steal away;
 But all the winnowed eastern sky
 Is flushed with many a tender hue,
 And spears of light are smiting through
 The ranks where huddled sea-mists fly.
 Across the ocean, wan and gray,
 Gay fleets of golden ripples come,
 For at the birth-hour of the day
 The roistering, wayward winds are dumb.
 The rocks that stretch to meet the tide
 Are smitten with a ruddy glow,
 And faint reflections come and go
 Where fishing boats at anchor ride.
 All life leaps out to greet the light
 The shining sea-gulls dive and soar,
 The swallows whirl in dizzy flight,
 And sandpeeps flit along the shore.
 From every purple landward hill
 The banners of the morning fly,
 But on the headlands, dim and high,
 The fishing hamlets slumber still.

29

One boat alone beyond the bar
 Is sailing outward blithe and free,
 To carry sturdy hearts afar
 Across those wastes of sparkling sea;
 Staunchly to seek what may be won

From out the treasures of the deep,
To toil for those at home who sleep

And be the first to greet the sun.

30

THE SEA SPIRIT

I smile o'er the wrinkled blue

Lo! the sea is fair,

Smooth as the flow of a maiden's hair:

And the welkin's light shines through

Into mid-sea caverns of beryl hue,

And the little waves laugh and the mermaids sing,

And the sea is a beautiful, sinuous thing!

I scowl in sullen guise

The sea grows dark and dun,

The swift clouds hide the sun

But not the bale-light in my eyes,

And the frightened wind as it flies

Ruffles the billows with stormy wing,

And the sea is a terrible, treacherous thing!

When moonlight glimmers dim

I pass in the path of the mist,

Like a pale spirit by spirits kissed.

At dawn I chant my own weird hymn,

And I dabble my hair in the sunset's rim

And I call to the dwellers along the shore

With a voice of gramarye evermore.

And if one for love of me

Gives to my call an ear,

I will woo him and hold him dear,

And teach him the way of the sea,

And my glamor shall ever over him be;

Though he wander afar in the cities of men

He will come at last to my arms again.

31

HARBOR DAWN

There's a hush and stillness calm and deep,

For the waves have wooed all the winds to sleep
 In the shadow of headlands bold and steep;
 But some gracious spirit has taken the cup
 Of the crystal sky and filled it up
 With rosy wine, and in it afar
 Has dissolved the pearl of the morning star.

The girdling hills with the night-mist cold
 In purple raiment are hooded and stoled
 And smit on the brows with fire and gold;
 And in the distance the wide, white sea
 Is a thing of glamor and wizardry,
 With its wild heart lulled to a passing rest,
 And the sunrise cradled upon its breast.

With the first red sunlight on mast and spar
 A ship is sailing beyond the bar,
 Bound to a land that is fair and far;
 And those who wait and those who go
 Are brave and hopeful, for well they know
 Fortune and favor the ship shall win
 That crosses the bar when the dawn comes in.

32

MY 'LONGSHORE LASS

Far in the mellow western sky,
 Above the restless harbor bar,
 A beacon on the coast of night,
 Shines out a calm white evening star;
 But your deep eyes, my 'longshore lass,
 Are brighter, clearer far.
 The glory of the sunset past
 Still gleams upon the water there,
 But all its splendor cannot match
 The wind-blown brightness of your hair;
 Not any sea-maid's floating locks
 Of gold are half so fair.
 The waves are whispering to the sands
 With murmurs as of elfin glee;
 But your low laughter, 'longshore lass,
 Is like a sea-harp's melody,

And the vibrant tones of your tender voice
Are sweeter far to me.

33

WHEN THE FISHING BOATS GO OUT

When the lucent skies of morning flush with dawning
rose once more,
And waves of golden glory break adown the sunrise
shore,
And o'er the arch of heaven pied films of vapor float.
There's joyance and there's freedom when the fishing
boats go out.

The wind is blowing freshly up from far, uncharted
caves,
And sending sparkling kisses o'er the brows of virgin
waves,
While routed dawn-mists shiver oh, far and fast they
flee,
Pierced by the shafts of sunrise athwart the merry sea!
Behind us, fair, light-smitten hills in dappled splendor
lie,
Before us the wide ocean runs to meet the limpid sky
Our hearts are full of poignant life, and care has fled
afar
As sweeps the white-winged fishing fleet across the har-
bor bar.

34

The sea is calling to us in a blithesome voice and free,
There's keenest rapture on its breast and boundless
liberty!
Each man is master of his craft, its gleaming sails out-
blown,
And far behind him on the shore a home he calls his
own.
Salt is the breath of ocean slopes and fresher blows
the breeze,

And swifter still each bounding keel cuts through the
combing seas,

Atwart our masts the shadows of the dipping sea-
gulls float,

And all the water-world's alive when the fishing boats
go out.

35

THE BRIDAL

Last night a pale young Moon was wed

Unto the amorous, eager Sea;
Her maiden veil of mist she wore

His kingly purple vesture, he.

With her a bridal train of stars

Walked sisterly through shadows dim

And, master minstrel of the world,

The great Wind sang the marriage hymn.

Thus came she down the silent sky
Unto the Sea her faith to plight,

And the grave priest who wedded them
Was ancient, sombre-mantled Night.

36

THE SEA TO THE SHORE

Lo, I have loved thee long, long have I yearned and
entreated!

Tell me how I may win thee, tell me how I must
woo.

Shall I creep to thy white feet, in guise of a humble
lover?

Shall I croon in mild petition, murmuring vows
anew?

Shall I stretch my arms unto thee, bidding thy maiden
coyness,

Under the silver of morning, under the purple of
night?

Taming my ancient rudeness, checking my heady
clamor

Thus, is it thus I must woo thee, oh, my delight?

Nay, 'tis no way of the sea thus to be meekly suitor

I shall storm thee away with laughter wrapped in
 my beard of snow,
 With the wildest of billows for chords I shall harp
 thee a song for thy bridal,
 A mighty lyric of love that feared not nor would
 forego!

37

With a red-gold wedding ring, mined from the caves
 of sunset,
 Fast shall I bind thy faith to my faith evermore,
 And the stars will wait on our pleasure, the great north
 wind will trumpet
 A thunderous marriage march for the nuptials of
 sea and shore.

38

THE VOYAGERS

We shall launch our shallop on waters blue from some
 dim primrose shore,

We shall sail with the magic of dusk behind and en-
 charmed coasts before,

Over oceans that stretch to the sunset land where lost
 Atlantis lies,

And our pilot shall be the vesper star that shines in
 the amber skies.

The sirens will call to us again, all sweet and demon-
 fair,

And a pale mermaid will beckon us, with mist on her
 night-black hair;

We shall see the flash of her ivory arms, her mocking
 and luring face,

And her guiling laughter will echo through the great,
 wind-winnowed space.

But we shall not linger for woven spell, or sea-nymph's
 sorceries,

It is ours to seek for the fount of youth, and the gold
 of Hesperides,

Till the harp of the waves in its rhythmic beat keeps

time to our pulses' swing,

And the orient welkin is smit to flame with auroral

crimsoning.

39

And at last, on some white and wondrous dawn, we
 shall reach the fairy isle
 Where our hope and our dream are waiting us, and the
 to-morrow's smile;
 With song on our lips and faith in our hearts we sail
 on our ancient quest,
 And each man shall find, at the end of the voyage, the
 thing he loves the best.

40

SONGS OF THE HILLS
 AND WOODS

41

TWILIGHT AND I WENT HAND IN
 HAND

Twilight and I went hand in hand,
 As lovers walk in shining Mays,
 O'er musky, memory-haunted ways,
 Across a lonely harvest-land,
 Where west winds chanted in the wheat
 An old, old vesper wondrous sweet.
 Oh, Twilight was a comrade rare
 For gypsy heath or templed grove,
 In her gray vesture, shadow-wove;
 I saw the darkness of her hair
 Faint-mirrored in a field-pool dim,
 As we stood tip-toe on its rim
 We went as lightly as on wings
 Through many a scented chamber fair,
 Among the pines and balsams, where
 I could have dreamed of darling things,

And ever as we went I knew
 The peeping fairy folk went too.
 I could have lingered now and then
 By gates of moonrise that might lead
 To some forgotten, spiced mead,
 Or in some mossy, cloistered glen,
 Where silence, very still and deep,
 Seemed fallen in enchanted sleep.

43

But Twilight ever led me on,
 As lovers walk, until we came
 To hills where sunset's shaken flame
 Had paled to ashes dead and wan;
 And there, with footsteps stolen-light
 She left me to the lure of night.

44

COME, REST AWHILE

Come, rest awhile, and let us idly stray
 In glimmering valleys, cool and far away.
 Come from the greedy mart, the troubled street,
 And listen to the music, faint and sweet,
 That echoes ever to a listening ear,
 Unheard by those who will not pause to hear
 The wayward chimes of memory's pensive bells,
 Wind-blown o'er misty hills and curtained dells.
 One step aside and dewy buds unclose
 The sweetness of the violet and the rose;
 Song and romance still linger in the green,
 Ere blossomed ways by you so seldom seen,
 And near at hand, would you but see them lie
 All lovely things beloved in days gone by.
 You have forgotten what it is to smile
 In your too busy life come, rest awhile.

45

AN APRIL NIGHT

The moon comes up o'er the deeps of the woods,
 And the long, low dingles that hide in the hills,
 Where the ancient beeches are moist with buds
 Over the pools and the whimpering rills;
 And with her the mists, like dryads that creep
 From their oaks, or the spirits of pine-hid springs,
 Who hold, while the eyes of the world are asleep,
 With the wind on the hills their gay revellings.
 Down on the marshlands with flicker and glow
 Wanders Will-o'-the-Wisp through the night,
 Seeking for witch-gold lost long ago
 By the glimmer of goblin lantern-light.
 The night is a sorceress, dusk-eyed and dear,
 Akin to all eerie and elfin things,
 Who weaves about us in meadow and mere
 The spell of a hundred vanished Springs.

46

RAIN ON THE HILL

Now on the hill
 The fitful wind is so still
 That never a wimpling mist uplifts,
 Nor a trembling leaf drop-laden stirs;
 From the ancient firs
 Aroma of balsam drifts,
 And the silent places are filled
 With elusive odors distilled
 By the rain from asters empearled and frilled,
 And a wild wet savor that dwells
 Far adown in tawny fallows and bracken dells.
 Then with a rush,

Breaking the beautiful hush
 Where the only sound was the lisp ing, low
 Converse of raindrops, or the dear sound
 Close to the ground,
 That grasses make when they grow,
 Comes the wind in a gay,
 Rollicking, turbulent way,
 To winnow each bough and toss each spray,
 Piping and whistling in glee
 With the vibrant notes of a merry minstrelsy.

47

The friendly rain
 Sings many a haunting strain,
 Now of gladness and now of dole,
 Anon of the glamor and the dream
 That ever seem
 To wait on a pilgrim soul;
 Yea, we can hear
 The grief of an elder year,
 And laughter half -forgotten and dear;
 In the wind and the rain we find
 Fellowship meet for each change of mood or mind.

48

FOR LITTLE THINGS

Last night I looked across the hills
 And through an arch of darkling pine
 Low-sung against a limpid west
 I saw a young moon shine.
 And as I gazed there blew a wind,

Loosed where the sylvan shadows stir,
 Bringing delight to soul and sense
 The breath of dying fir.

This morn I saw a dancing host
 Of poppies in a garden way,
 And straight my heart was mirth-possessed
 And I was glad as they.

I heard a song across the sea
 As sweet and faint as echoes are,
 And glimpsed a poignant happiness
 No care of earth might mar.

Dear God, our life is beautiful
 In every splendid gift it brings,
 But most I thank Thee humbly for
 The joy of little things.

49

SPRING SONG

Hark, I hear a robin calling!
 List, the wind is from the south!
 And the orchard-bloom is falling
 Sweet as kisses on the mouth.

In the dreamy vale of beeches
 Fair and faint is woven mist,
 And the river's orient reaches
 Are the palest amethyst.

Every limpid brook is singing
 Of the lure of April days;
 Every piney glen is ringing
 With the maddest roundelays.

Come and let us seek together
 Springtime lore of daffodils,
 Giving to the golden weather
 Greeting on the sun-warm hills.

Ours shall be the moonrise stealing
 Through the birches ivory-white;
 Ours shall be the mystic healing
 Of the velvet-footed night.

Ours shall be the gypsy winding
 Of the path with violets blue,
 Ours at last the wizard finding
 Of the land where dreams come true.

50

A DAY OFF

Let us put awhile away
 All the cares of work-a-day,
 For a golden time forget,
 Task and worry, toil and fret,
 Let us take a day to dream
 In the meadow by the stream
 We may lie in grasses cool
 Fringing a pellucid pool,
 We may learn the gay brook-runes
 Sung on amber afternoons,
 And the keen wind-rhyme that fills
 Mossy hollows of the hills.
 Where the wild-wood whisper stirs
 We may talk with lispings firs,
 We may gather honeyed blooms
 In the dappled forest glooms,
 We may eat of berries red
 O'er the emerald upland spread.
 We may linger as we will
 In the sunset valleys still,
 Till the gypsy shadows creep
 From the starlit land of sleep,
 And the mist of evening gray
 Girdles round our pilgrim way.

51

We may bring to work again
 Courage from the tasselled glen,
 Bring a strength unfailing won
 From the paths of cloud and sun,
 And the wholesome zest that springs
 From all happy, growing things.

52

THE WIND

O, wind! what saw you in the South,
In lilled meadows fair and far?

I saw a lover kiss his lass

New-won beneath the evening star.

O, wind! what saw you in the West

Of passing sweet that wooed your stay?

I saw a mother kneeling by

The cradle where her first-born lay.

O, wind! what saw you in the North
That you shall dream of evermore?

I saw a maiden keeping tryst

Upon a gray and haunted shore.

O, wind! what saw you in the East
That still of ancient dole you croon?

I saw a wan wreck on the waves
And a dead face beneath the moon.

53

THE WOOD POOL

Here is a voice that soundeth low and far
And lyric voice of wind among the pines,

Where the untroubled, glimmering waters are,
And sunlight seldom shines.

Eusive shadows linger shyly here,

And wood-flowers blow, like pale, sweet spirit-
bloom

And white, slim birches whisper, mirrored clear

In the pool's lucent gloom

Here Pan might pipe, or wandering dryad kneel
To view her loveliness beside the brim

Or laughing wood-nymphs from the byways steal
To dance around its rim

'Tis such a witching spot as might beseem
A seeker for young friendship's trysting place,

Or lover yielding to the immortal dream
Of one beloved face.

54

DOWN STREAM

Comrades, up! Let us row down stream in this first
rare dawn light,
While far in the clear north-west the late moon
whitens and wanes;
Before us the sun will rise, deep-purpling headland and
islet,
It is well to meet him thus, with the life astir in our
veins!

The wakening birds will sing for us in the woods wind-
shaken,
And the solitude of the hills will be broken by hymns
to the light,
As we sweep past drowsing hamlets, still feathered by
dreams of slumber,
And leave behind us the shadows that fell with the
falling of night.

The young day's strength is ours in sinew and thew
and muscle,
We are filled and thrilled with the spirit that dwells
in the waste and world,
Glamor of wind and water, charm of the wilderness-
es
Oh, the dear joy of it, greater than human hearts
can hold!

55

While the world's tired children sleep we bend to our
oars with faces
Set in our eager gladness towards the morning's
gate;
Lo, 'tis the sweet of the day! Oh, comrades mine, for
beyond us
All its dower of beauty, its glory and wonder wait.

56

ECHO DELL

In a lone valley fair and far,
 Where many sweet beguilements are,
 I know a spot to lag and dream
 Through damask morns and noons agleam
 For feet fall lightly on the fern
 And twilight is a wondrous thing,
 When the winds blow from some far bourne
 Beyond the hill rims westering;
 There echoes ring as if a throng
 Of fairies hid from mortal eyes
 Sent laughter back in spirit guise
 And song as the pure soul of song;
 Oh, 'tis a spot to love right well,
 This lonely, witching Echo Dell!
 Even the winds an echo know,
 Elusive, faint, such as might blow
 From wandering elf-land bugles far,
 Beneath an occidental star;
 And I have thought the blue bells I lent
 A subtle music to my ear,
 And that the pale wild roses bent
 To harken sounds I might not hear.
 The tasselled fir trees softly croon
 The fabled lore of elder days.
 And through the shimmering eastern haze
 Floats slowly up the mellow moon;
 Come, heart o' mine, for love must dwell
 In whispering, witching Echo Dell.

57

THE ROVERS

Over the fields we go through the sweets of the purple
 clover,

That letters a message for us as for every vagrant
rover ;

Before us the dells are ablom, and a leaping brook
calls after,

Feeling its kinship with us in lore of dreams and laugh-
ter.

Out of the valleys of moonlight elfin voices are calling ;
Down from the misty hills faint, far greetings are

falling ;
Whisper the grasses to us, murmuring gleeful and airy,
Knowing us pixy-led, seeking the haunts of faery.

The wind is our joyful comrade wherever our free
feet wander,

Over the tawny wolds to the meres and meadows yon-
der;

The mild-eyed stars go with us, or the rain so swiftly
flyi ng,

Racing us over the wastes where the hemlocks and
pi nes are si ghi ng.

58

Across the upland dim, down through the beckoni ng

hollow
Oh, we go too far and fast for the feet of care to

follow !
The gypsy fire in our hearts for the wilderness wide

and luring;
Other loves may fail but this is great and enduring.

Other delights may pall but the joy of the open never;

The charm of the silent places must win and hold us
forever ;

Bondage of walls we leave with never a glance be-
hi nd us.

Under the lucent sky the delights of the rover shall find
us.

59

AMONG THE PINES

Here let us linger at will and delight some y hearken
Music aeolian of wind in the boughs of pine,

Timbre of falling waters, sounds all soft and sonorous,
Worshipful litanies sung at a bannered shrine.

Deep let us breathe the ripeness and savor of balsam,
Tears that the pines have wept in sorrow sweet,

With its aroma comes beguilement of things forgot-
ten,
Long-past hopes of the years on tip-toeing feet.

Far in the boskiest glen of this wood is a dream and
a silence
Come, we shall claim them ours ere look we long ;
A dream that we dreamed and lost, a silence richly
hearted,
Deep at its lyric core with the soul of a song.

If there be storm it will thunder a march in the
branches,

So that our feet may keep true time as we go ;
If there be rain, it will laugh, it will glisten, and beckon,

Calling to us as a friend all lightly and low.

60

If it be night, the moonlight will wander winsome y
with us,

If it be hour of dawn, all heaven will bloom
If it be sunset, it's glow will enfold and pursue us.

To the remotest valley of purple gloom

Lo ! the pine wood is a temple where the days meet to
worship,
Laying their cark and care for the nonce aside,
God, who made it, keeps it as a witness to Him for-
ever,
Walking in it, as a garden, at eventide.

61

A DAY IN THE OPEN

Ho, a day

Whereon we may up and away,

With a fetterless wind that is out on the downs,

And there piping a call to the fallow and shore,
 Where the sea evermore
 Surgeth over the gray reef, and drowns
 The fierce rocks with white foam
 It is ours with untired feet to roam
 Where the pines in green gloom of wide vales make
 their murmuring home,
 Or the pools that the sunlight hath kissed
 Mirror back a blue sky that is winnowed of cloud and
 of mist!
 Ho, a day
 Whereon we may up and away
 Through the orient distances hazy and pied,
 Hand in hand with the gypsying breezes that blow
 Here and there, to and fro,
 O'er the meadows all rosy and wide,
 Where a lyric of flowers
 Is sweet-sung to the frolicking hours,
 And the merry buds letter the foot-steps of tip-toeing
 showers ;
 We may climb where the steep is beset
 With a turbulent waterfall, loving to clamor and fret!

62

Ho, a day
 Whereon we may up and away
 To the year that is holding her cup of wild wine;
 If we drink we shall be as the gods of the world
 In the blithe days of old
 Elate with a laughter divine;
 Yea, and then we shall know
 The rare magic of solitude so
 We shall nevermore wish its delight and its dreams to

forego,
 And our blood will upstir and upleap
 With a fellowship splendid, a gladness impassioned
 and deep !

63

MIDNIGHT IN CAMP

Night in the unslumbering forest! From the free,
 Vast pinelands by the foot of man untrod,

Blows the wild wind, roaming rejoicingly
 This wilderness of God;

And the tall firs that all day long have flung
 Balsamic odors where the sunshine burned,
 Chant to its harping primal epics learned

When this old world was young.

Beyond the lake, white, girdling peaks uplift
 Untroubled brows to virgin skies afar,

And o'er the uncertain water glimmers drift
 Of fitful cloud and star.

Sure never day such mystic beauty held
 As sylvan midnight here in this surcease
 Of toil, when the kind darkness gives us peace

Garnered from years of eld.

Lo! Harken to the mountain waterfall
 Laughing adown its pathway to the glen

And nearer, in the cedars, the low call
 Of brook to brook again;

Voices that garish daytime may not know
 Wander at will along the bosky steeps,
 And silent, silver-footed moonlight creeps

Through the dim glades below.

64

Oh, it is well to waken with the woods

And feel, as those who wait with God alone,

The forest's heart in these rare solitudes
 Beating against our own.

Close-shut behind us are the gates of care,

Di vi ni ty en folds us, prone to bless,
And our souls kneel. Night in the wilderness

Is one great prayer.

65

THE HILL MAPLES

Here on a hill of the Occident stand we shoulder to
shoulder,
Comrades tried and true through a mighty swath
of the years!
Spring harps glad laughter through us, and ministrant
rains of the autumn
Sing us again the songs of ancient dolor and tears.

The glory of sunrise smites on our fair, free brows
uplifted
When the silver-kirtled day steps over the twilight's
bars;
At evening we look adown into valleys hearted with
sunset,
And we whisper old lore together under the smould-
ering stars.

Crescent moons of the summer gleam through our
swaying branches,
Knee-deep in fern we stand while the days of the
sun-time go;
And the winds of winter love us the keen, gay winds
of the winter,
Coming to our gray arms from over the plains of
snow.

66

Down in the valleys beneath us is wooing and winning
and wedding,
Down in the long, dim valleys earth-children wail
and weep;
But here on these free hills we grow and are strong
and flourish,
Comrades shoulder to shoulder our watch of the
years to keep.

67

A SUMMER DAY

I

The dawn laughs out on orient hills

And dances with the diamond rills ;
 The ambrosial wind but faintly stirs
 The silken, beaded gossamers;
 In the wide valleys, lone and fair,
 Lyrics are piped from limpid air,
 And, far above, the pine trees free
 Voice ancient lore of sky and sea.
 Come, let us fill our hearts straight way
 With hope and courage of the day.

II

Noon, hiving sweets of sun and flower,
 Has fallen on dreams in wayside bower,
 Where bees hold honeyed fellowship
 With the ripe blossom of her lip;
 All silent are her poppied vales
 And all her long Arcadian dales,
 Where idleness is gathered up
 A magic draught in summer's cup.
 Come, let us give ourselves to dreams
 By lispings margins of her streams.

68

III

Adown the golden sunset way
 The evening comes in wimple gray ;
 By burnished shore and silver lake
 Cool winds of ministrations wake;
 O'er occidental meadows far
 There shines the light of moon and star,
 And sweet, low-tinkling music rings
 About the lips of haunted springs.
 In quietude of earth and air
 'Tis meet we yield our souls to prayer.

69

SEPTEMBER

Lo! a ripe sheaf of many golden days
 Gleaned by the year in autumn's harvest ways,
 With here and there, blood-tinted as an ember,
 Some crimson poppy of a late delight
 Atoning in its splendor for the flight

Of summer blooms and joys
This is September.

70

IN LOVERS' LANE

I know a place for loitering feet
Deep in the valley where the breeze

Makes melody in lichened boughs,
And murmurs low love-litanies.

There slender harebells nod and dream,
And pale wild roses offer up

The fragrance of their golden hearts,
As from some incense-brimmed cup.

It holds the sunshine sifted down

Softly through many a beechen screen,

Save where, by deeper woods embraced,
Cool shadows linger, dim and green.

And there my love and I may walk
And harken to the lapsing fall

Of unseen brooks and tender winds,
And wooing birds that sweetly call.

And every voice to her will say
What I repeat in dear refrain,

And eyes will meet with seeking eyes,
And hands will clasp in Lovers' Lane.

71

Come, sweet-heart, then, and we will stray
Adown that valley, lingering long,

Until the rose is wet with dew,
And robins come to evensong,

And woo each other, borrowing speech
Of love from winds and brooks and birds,

Until our sundered thoughts are one
And hearts have no more need of words.

72

ON THE HILLS

Through the pungent hours of the afternoon,
 On the autumn slopes we have lightly wandered
 Where the sunshine lay in a golden swoon
 And the lingering year all its sweetness squandered.
 Oh, it was blithesome to roam at will
 Over the crest of each westering hill,
 Over those dreamy, enchanted lands
 Where the trees held to us their friendly hands !
 Winds in the pine boughs softly crooned,
 Or in the grasses complained most sweetly,
 With all the music of earth attuned
 In this dear ripe time that must pass so fleetly:
 Golden rod as we idled by
 Held its torches of flame on high,
 And the asters beckoned along our way
 Like fair fine ladies in silk array.
 We passed by woods where the day aside
 Knelt like a pensive nun and tender,
 We looked on valleys of purple pride
 Where she reigned a queen in her misty splendor;
 But out on the hills she was wild and free,
 A comrade to wander right gipsily,
 Luring us on over waste and wold
 With the charm of a message half sung, half told,

73

And now, when far in the shining west
 She has dropped her flowers on the sunset meadow,
 We turn away from our witching quest
 To the kindly starshine and gathering shadow,
 Filled to the lips of our souls are we
 With the beauty given so lavishly,
 And hand in hand with the night we come
 Back to the light and the hearth of home.

74

AN AUTUMN EVENING

Dark hills against a hollow crocus sky
 Scarfed with its crimson pennons, and below
 The dome of sunset long, hushed valleys lie
 Cradling the twilight, where the lone winds blow
 And wake among the harps of leafless trees
 Fantastic runes and mournful melodies.
 The chilly purple air is threaded through
 With silver from the rising moon afar,
 And from a gulf of clear, unfathom'd blue
 In the southwest glimmers a great gold star
 Above the darkening druid glens of fir
 Where beckoning boughs and elfin voices stir.
 And so I wander through the shadows still,
 And look and listen with a rapt delight,
 Pausing again and yet again at will
 To drink the elusive beauty of the night,
 Until my soul is filled, as some deep cup,
 That with divine enchantment is brimmed up.

75

NOVEMBER EVENING

Come, for the dusk is our own; let us fare forth to-
 gether,
 With a quiet delight in our hearts for the ripe, still,
 autumn weather,
 Through the rustling valley and wood and over the
 crispning meadow,
 Under a high-sprung sky, winnowed of mist and
 shadow.
 Sharp is the frosty air, and through the far hill-gaps
 showing
 Lucent sunset lakes of crocus and green are glowing;
 'Tis the hour to walk at will in a wayward, unfettered

roaming,
 Caring for naught save the charm, elusive and swift,
 of the gloaming.

Watchful and stirless the fields as if not unkindly holding

Harvested joys in their clasp, and to their broad bosoms folding

Baby hopes of a Spring, trusted to motherly keeping,

Thus to be cherished and happed through the long months of their sleeping.

76

Silent the woods are and gray; but the firs than ever

are greener,
 Nipped by the frost till the tang of their loosened

bal sam is keener;
 And one little wind in their boughs, eerily swaying and

swinging,
 Very soft and low, like a wandering minstrel is singing.

ing.

Beautiful is the year, but not as the springlike maiden
 Garlanded with her hopes rather the woman laden
 With wealth of joy and grief, worthily won through

living,
 Wearing her sorrow now like a garment of praise and

thanksgiving.

Gently the dark comes down over the wild, fair places,
 The whispering glens in the hills, the open, starry

spaces ;
 Rich with the gifts of the night, sated with questing

and dreaming,
 We turn to the dearest of paths where the star of the
 homelight is gleaming.

77

OUT O' DOORS

There's a gypsy wind across the harvest land,
 Let us fare forth with it lightly hand in hand ;
 Where cloud shadows blow across the sunwarm waste,
 And the first red leaves are falling let us haste,
 For the waning days are lavish of their stores,
 And the joy of life is with us out o' doors!

Let us roam along the ways of golden rod
 Over uplands where the spicy bracken nod,
 Through the wildwood where the hemlock branches

croon

Their rune-chant of elder days across the noon,
 For the mellow air its pungency outpours,
 And the glory of the year is out o' doors !

There's a great gray sea beyond us calling far,
 There's a blue tide curling o'er the harbor bar ;
 Ho, the breeze that smites us saltly on the lips
 Whistles gaily in the sails of outbound ships;
 Let us send our thoughts with them to fabled shores,
 For the pilgrim mood is on us out o' doors !

Lo! the world's rejoicing in each spirit thrills,
 Strength and gladness are to us upon the hills ;
 We are one with crimson bough and ancient sea,
 Holding all the joy of autumn hours in fee,
 Hope within us like a questing bird upsoars,
 And there's room for song and laughter out o' doors.

78

IN THE DAYS OF THE GOLDEN ROD

Across the meadow in brooding shadow

I walk to drink of the autumn's wine
 The charm of story, the artist's glory,

To-day on these silvering hills is mine;
 On height, in hollow, where'er I follow,

By mellow hillside and searing sod,
 Its plumes uplifting, in light winds drifting,

I see the glimmer of golden-rod.

In this latest corner the vanished summer

Has left its sunshine the world to cheer,
 And bids us remember in late September

What beauty mates with the passing year.
 The days that are fleetest are still the sweetest,

And life is near to the heart of God,

And the peace of heaven to earth is given
 In this wonderful time of the golden-rod.

79

A WINTER DAY

The air is silent save where stirs
 A bugling breeze among the firs;
 The virgin world in white array
 Waits for the bridegroom kiss of day;
 All heaven blooms rarely in the east
 Where skies are silvery and fleeced,
 And o'er the orient hills made glad
 The morning comes in wonder clad;
 Oh, 'tis a time most fit to see
 How beautiful the dawn can be!

II

Wide, sparkling fields snow-vestured lie
 Beneath a blue, unshadowed sky;
 A glistening splendor crowns the woods
 And bosky, whistling solitudes;
 In hemlock glen and reedy mere
 The tang of frost is sharp and clear;
 Life hath a jollity and zest,
 A poignancy made manifest;
 Laughter and courage have their way
 At noontide of a winter's day.

80

III

Faint music rings in wold and dell,
 The tinkling of a distant bell,
 Where homestead lights with friendly glow
 Gimmer across the drifted snow,
 Beyond a valley dim and far
 Lit by an occidental star,
 Tall pines the marge of day beset
 Like many a slender minaret,
 Whence priest-like winds on crystal air

Summon the reverent world to prayer.

81
6

TWILIGHT

From vales of dawn hath Day pursued the Night
Who mocking fled, swift-sandalled, to the west,

Nor ever lingered in her wayward flight

With dusk-eyed glance to recompense his quest,

But over crocus hills and meadows gray
Sped fleetly on her way.

Now when the Day, shorn of his failing strength,
Hath fallen spent before the sunset bars,

The fair, wild Night, with pity touched at length,
Crowned with her chaplet of out-blossoming stars,

Creeps back repentantly upon her way
To kiss the dying Day.

82

THE CALL OF THE WINDS

Ho, come out with the wind of spring,

And step it blithely in woodlands waking;
Friend am I of each growing thing

From the gray sod into sunshine breaking;
Mine is the magic of twilights dim
Of violets blue on the still pool's rim
Mine is the breath of the blossoms young
Sweetest of fragrances storied or sung
Come, ye earth-children, weary and worn,
I will lead you over the hills of morn.

Ho, come out with the summer wind,

And loiter in meadows of ripening clover,
Where the purple noons are long and kind,

And the great white clouds drift fleecily over.
Mine is immortal minstrelsy,
The fellowship of the rose and bee,
Beguiling laughter of willowed rills,
The rejoicing of pines on inland hills,
Come, ye earth-children, by dale and stream
I will lead you into the ways of dream

Ho, when the wind of autumn rings
 Through jubilant mornings crisp and golden,
 Come where the yellow woodland flings
 Its hoarded wealth over by-ways olden.
 Mine are the grasses frosted and serene,

83

That lisp and rustle around the mere,
 Mine are the flying racks that dim
 The lingering sunset's reddening rim,
 Earth-children, come, in the waning year,
 I will harp you to laughter and buoyant cheer.

Ho, when the wind of winter blows
 Over the uplands and moonlit spaces,
 Come ye out to the waste of snows,
 To the glimmering fields and the silent places.
 I whistle gaily on starry nights
 Through the arch of the elfin northern lights,
 But in long white valleys I pause to hark
 Where the ring of the home-lights gems the dark.
 Come, ye earth-children, whose hearts are sad,
 I will make you valiant and strong and glad!

84

A WINTER DAWN

Above the marge of night a star still shines,
 And on the frosty hills the sombre pines
 Harbor an eerie wind that crooneth low
 Over the glimmering wastes of virgin snow.

Through the pale arch of orient the morn
 Comes in a milk-white splendor newly-born,
 A sword of crimson cuts in twain the gray
 Banners of shadow hosts, and lo, the day!

85

THE FOREST PATH

Oh, the charm of idle dreaming
 Where the dappled shadows dance,
 All the leafy aisles are teeming

With the lure of old romance!
 Down into the forest dipping,
 Deep and deeper as we go,
 One might fancy dryads slipping
 Where the white-stemmed birches grow.
 Lurking gnome and freakish fairy
 In the fern may peep and hide . . .
 Sure their whispers low and airy
 Ring us in on every side!
 Saw you where the pines are rocking
 Nymph's white shoulder as she ran?
 Lo, that music faint and mocking,
 Is it not a pipe of Pan?
 Hear you that elusive laughter
 Of the hidden waterfall?
 Nay, a satyr speeding after
 Ivy-crowned bacchanal.
 Far and farther as we wander
 Sweeter shall our roaming be,
 Come, for dim and winsome yonder
 Lies the path to Arcady!

86

AT NIGHTFALL

The dark is coming o'er the world, my playmate,
 And the fields where poplars stand are very still,
 All our groves of green delight have been invaded,
 There are voices quite unknown upon the hill;
 The wind has grown too weary for a comrade,
 It is keening in the rushes spent and low,
 Let us join our hands and hasten very softly
 To the little, olden, friendly path we know.
 The stars are laughing at us, O, my playmate,
 Very, very far away in lonely skies,
 The trees that were our friends are strangers to us,
 And the fern is full of whispers and of sighs.
 The sounds we hear are not what we may share in,
 We may not linger where the white moths roam

We must hasten yet more swiftly, little playmate,
To the house among the pines that is our home.

The dark is creeping closer yet, my playmate,
And the woods seem crowding nearer as we go,

Oh, how very, very bold have grown the shadows,
They may touch us as they flutter to and fro!

The silence is too dreadful for our laughter,
The night is very full of strange alarms,

But it cannot hurt us now, O, little playmate,
One more step and we are safe in mother's arms !

87

THE TRUCE O' NIGHT

Lo, it is dark,

Save for the crystal spark

Of a virgin star o'er the purpling lea,

Or the fine, keen, silvery grace of a young

Moon that is hung

O'er the priest-like firs by the sea ;

Lo, it is still,

Save for the wind of the hill,

And the luring, primeval sounds that fill

The moist and scented air

'Tis the truce o' night, away with unrest and care !

Now we may forget

Love's fever and hate's fret,

Forget to-morrow and yesterday;

And the hopes we buried in musky gloom

Will come out of their tomb,

Warm and poignant and gay;

We may wander wide,

With only a wish for a guide,

By heath and pool where the Little Folk bide,

We may share in fairy mirth,
 And partake once more in the happy thoughts of earth.

88

Lo, we may rest
 Here on her cradling breast
 In the wonderful time of the truce o' night,
 And sweet things that happened long ago,
 Softly and slow,
 Will creep back to us in delight;
 And our dreams may be
 Compact of young melody,
 Just such as under the Eden Tree,
 'Mid the seraphim's lullabies,
 Eve's might have been ere banished from Paradise.

39

MISCELLANEOUS

91

TO MY ENEMY

Let those who will of friendship sing,
 And to its guerdon grateful be,

But I a lyric garland bring

To crown thee, O, mine enemy!

Thanks, endless thanks, to thee I owe
 For that my lifelong journey through

Thine honest hate has done for me
 What love perchance had failed to do.

I had not scaled such weary heights
 But that I held thy scorn in fear,

And never keenest lure might match
The subtle goading of thy sneer.

Thine anger struck from me a fire
That purged all dull content away,

Our mortal strife to me has been
Unflinching spur from day to day.

And thus, while all the world may laud
The gifts of love and loyalty,

I lay my meed of gratitude
Before thy feet, mine enemy!

93

AS THE HEART HOPES

It is a year dear one, since you afar
Went out beyond my yearning mortal sight
A wondrous year ! perchance in many a star
You have sojourned, or basked within the light
Of mightier suns; it may be you have trod
The glittering pathways of the Pleiades,
And through the Milky Way's white mysteries
Have walked at will, fire-shod.

You may have gazed in the immortal eyes
Of prophets and of martyrs ; talked with seers

Learned in all the lore of Paradise,
The infinite wisdom of eternal years;

To you the Sons of Morning may have sung,
The impassioned strophes of their matin hymn,
For you the choirs of the seraphim

Their harpings wild out-flung.

But still I think at eve you come to me

For old, delightful speech of eye and lip,

Deeming our mutual converse thus to be
Fairer than archangelic comradeship;

Dearer our close communings fondly given
Than all the rainbow dreams a spirit knows,
Sweeter my gathered violets than the rose

Upon the hills of heaven.

94

Can any exquisite, unearthly morn,
Silverly breaking o'er a starry plain,

Give to your soul the poignant pleasure born
Of virgin moon and sunset's lustrous stain

When we together watch them? Oh, apart
A hundred universes you may roam,
But still I know I know your only home

Is here within my heart!

95

TWO LOVES

One said; "Lo, I would walk hand-clasped with thee
A down the ways of joy and sunlit slopes

Of earthly song in happiest vagrancy

To pluck the blossom of a thousand hopes.

Let us together drain the wide world's cup

With gladness brimmed up!"

And one said, "I would pray to go with thee

When sorrow claims thee; I would fence thy heart

With mine against all anguish; I would be
The comforter and healer of thy smart;

And I would count it all the wide world's gain

To spare or share thy pain!"

96

THE CHRISTMAS NIGHT

Wrapped was the world in slumber deep,

By seaward valley and cedarn steep,

And bright and blest were the dreams of its sleep;

All the hours of that wonderful night-tide through

The stars outblossomed in fields of blue,

A heavenly chaplet, to diadem

The King in the manger of Bethlehem

Out on the hills the shepherds lay,
 Wakeful, that never a lamb might stray,
 Humble and clean of heart were they;
 Thus it was given them to hear
 Marvellous harpings strange and clear,
 Thus it was given them to see
 The heralds of the nativity.

In the dim-lit stable the mother mild
 Looked with holy eyes on her child,
 Cradled him close to her heart and smiled;
 Kingly purple nor crown had he,
 Never a trapping of royalty;
 But Mary saw that the baby's head
 With a slender nimbus was garlanded.

97

Speechless her joy as she watched him there,
 Forgetful of pain and grief and care,
 And every thought in her soul was a prayer;
 While under the dome of the desert sky
 The Kings of the East from afar drew nigh,
 And the great white star that was guide to them
 Kept ward o'er the manger of Bethlehem

98

IN AN OLD FARMHOUSE

Outside the afterlight's lucent rose

Is smiting the hills and brimming the valleys,

And shadows are stealing across the snows;
 From the mystic gloom of the pine and alleys.

Glamour of mingled night and day

Over the wide, white world has sway,

And through their prisoning azure bars,

Gaze the calm, cold eyes of the early stars.

But here, in this long, low-raftered room

Where the blood-red light is crouching and leaping,
 The fire that colors the heart of the gloom

The lost sunshine of old summers is keeping
 The wealth of forests that held in fee

Many a season's rare alchemy,
 And the glow and gladness without a name
 That dwells in the deeps of unstinted flame.

Gather we now round the opulent blaze

With the face that loves and the heart that rejoices,
 Dream we once more of the old-time days,

Listen once more to the old-time voices!
 From the clutch of the cities and paths of the sea
 We have come again to our own roof-tree,
 And forgetting the loves of the stranger lands
 We yearn for the clasp of our kindred's hands.

99

There are tales to tell, there are tears to shed,

There are children's flower-faces and women's sweet
 laughter ;
 There's a chair left vacant for one who is dead

Where the firelight crimsons the ancient rafter ;
 What reck we of the world that waits
 With care and clamor beyond our gates,
 We, with our own, in this witching light,
 Who keep our tryst with the past to-night ?

Ho! how the elf-flames laugh in glee!

Closer yet let us draw together,
 Holding our revel of memory

In the guiling twilight of winter weather ;
 Out on the waste the wind is chill,
 And the moon swings low o'er the western hill,
 But old hates die and old loves burn higher
 With the wane and flash of the farmhouse fire.

100

A REQUEST

When I am dead

I would that ye make my bed

On that low-lying, windy waste by the sea,

Where the silvery grasses rustle and lisp ;

There, where the crisp

Foam-flakes shall fly over me,

And murmurs creep
 From the ancient heart of the deep,
 Lulling me ever, I shall most sweetly sleep.
 While the eerie sea-folk croon
 On the long dim shore by the light of a waning moon.
 I shall not hear
 Clamor of young life anear,
 Voices of gladness to stir an unrest;
 Only the wandering mists of the sea
 Shall companion me;
 Only the wind in its quest
 Shall come where I lie,
 Or the rain from the brooding sky
 With furtive footstep shall pass me by,
 And never a dream of the earth
 Shall break on my slumber with lure of an out-lived
 mirth.

101

MEMORY PICTURES

I

A wide-spring meadow in a rosy dawn
 Bedropt with virgin buds; an orient sky
 Fleeced with a dappled cloud but half withdrawn;
 A mad wind blowing by,
 Over slopes of rippling grass and glens apart;
 A brackened path to a wild-woodland place
 A limpid pool with a fair, laughing face
 Mirrored within its heart.

II

An ancient garden brimmed with summer sun
 Upon a still and slumberous afternoon;
 Old walks and pleasancess with shadows spun
 Where honeyed odors swoon;
 A velvet turf with blossoms garlanded;
 A hedge of Mary-lilies white and tall;
 And, shining out against a lichened wall,
 A stately-golden head.

III

An autumn hilltop in the sunset hue,

Pine boughs up-tossed against the crystal west,
 And, girdled with the twilight dim and blue,
 A valley peace-possessed;
 A high-sprung heaven stained with colors rare,
 A sheen of moonrise on the sea afar,
 And, bright and soft as any glimmering star,
 Eyes holy as a prayer.

102

DOWN HOME

Down home to-night the moonshine falls
 Across a hill with daisies pied,

The pear tree by the garden gate
 Beckons with white arms like a bride.

A savor as of trampled fern

Along the whispering meadow stirs,

And, beacon of immortal love,
 A light is shining through the firs.

To my old gable window creeps

The night wind with a sigh and song,

And, weaving ancient sorceries,

Thereto the gleeful moonbeams throng.

Beside the open kitchen door
 My mother stands all lovingly,

And o'er the pathways of the dark
 She sends a yearning thought to me.

It seeks and finds my answering heart
 Which shall no more be peace-possessed

Until I reach her empty arms

And lay my head upon her breast.

103

THE CHOICE

Life, come to me in no pale guise and ashen,

I care not for thee in such placid fashion!

I would share widely, Life,
 In all thy joy and strife,
 Would sound thy deeps and reach thy highest passion,
 With thy delight and with thy suffering rife.
 Whether I bide with thee in cot or palace,
 I would drink deeply, Life, of thy great chalice,
 Even to its bitter lees
 Yea, shrinking not from these,
 Since out of bitterness come strength and solace
 And wisdom is not won in slumberous ease.
 Van peace, uncolored days, were a poor favor ;
 To lack great pain and love were to lack savor.
 Life, take the heart of me
 And fill it brimmingly,
 No matter with what poignant brew or flavor,
 So that it may not shrunk and empty be.
 Yea, Life, thus would I live, nor play at living,
 The best of me for thy best gladly giving,
 With an unfaltering cheer,
 Greeting thee year by year,
 Even in thy dourlest mood some good achieving,
 Until I read thy deep-hid meaning clear.

104

TWILIGHT IN THE GARDEN

The scent of the earth is moist and good
 In the dewy shade
 Of the tall, dark poplars whose slender tops
 Against the sunset bloom are laid,
 And a robin is whistling in the copse
 By the dim spruce wood.

The west wind blowing o'er branch and flower
 Out of the world,
 Steals through the honeysuckle bower
 And bears away on its airy wings
 Odors that breath of paradise;
 Dim are the poppies' splendid dyes,
 But many a pallid primrose swings
 Its lamp of gold.
 A white moth flits from tree to tree
 Like a wandering soul;
 Deep in the lily a muffled boom
 Tells of a honey-drunken bee
 Wildered with sweets in that ivory bowl;
 Many a subtle melody,
 Many a rare sound all unknown
 To the lusty daylight's fuller tone
 Threads with its magic this hush and gloom

105

Many a dear thought deep in the heart,
 Many a memory, dulcet and fine,
 Wakes as we walk in the garden to-night,
 In this soft kissing of dark and light,
 When the world has drawn itself apart
 From our spirit's shrine.

106

MY LEGACY

My friend has gone away from me
 From shadow into perfect light,
 But leaving a sweet legacy.
 My heart shall hold it long in fee
 A grand ideal, calm and bright,
 A song of hope for ministry,
 A faith of unstained purity,

A thought of beauty for delight

These did my friend bequeath to me ;

And, more than even these can be,
The worthy pattern of a white,
Unmarred life lived most graciously.

Dear comrade, loyal thanks to thee
Who now hath fared beyond my sight,
My friend has gone away from me,
But leaving a sweet legacy.

107

GRATI TUDE

I thank thee, friend, for the beautiful thought
That in words well chosen thou gavest to me,
Deep in the life of my soul it has wrought

With its own rare essence to ever imbue me,
To gleam like a star over devious ways,
To bloom like a flower on the drearest days
Better such gift from thee to me
Than gold of the hills or pearls of the sea.

For the luster of jewels and gold may depart,
And they have in them no life of the giver,

But this gracious gift from thy heart to my heart
Shall witness to me of thy love forever ;

Yea, it shall always abide with me

As a part of my immortality ;

For a beautiful thought is a thing divine,

So I thank thee, oh, friend, for this gift of thine.

108

FANCI ES

Surely the flowers of a hundred springs
Are simply the souls of beautiful things!

The poppies aflame with gold and red

Were the kisses of lovers in days that are fled.

The purple pansies with dew-drops pearled
Were the rainbow dreams of a youngling world.

The lily, white as a star apart,
 Was the first pure prayer of a virgin heart.

The daisies that dance and twinkle so
 Were the laughter of children in long ago.

The sweetness of all true friendship yet
 Lives in the breath of the mignonette.

To the white narcissus there must belong
 The very delight of a maiden's song.

And the rose, all flowers of the earth above,
 Was a perfect, rapturous thought of love.

Oh! surely the blossoms of all the springs
 Must be the souls of beautiful things.

109

ONE OF THE SHEPHERDS

We were out on the hills that night
 To watch our sheep ;
 Drowsily by the fire we lay
 Where the waning flame did flicker and leap,
 And some were weary and half asleep,
 And some talked low of their flocks and the fright
 Of a lion that day.

But I had drawn from the others apart ;
 I was only a lad,

And the night's great silence so filled my heart
 That I dared not talk and I dared not jest ;
 The moon had gone down behind the hill
 And even the wind of the desert was still ;
 As the touch of death the air was cold,
 And the world seemed all outworn and old ;
 Yet a poignant delight in my soul was guest,
 And I could not be sad.

Still were my thoughts the thoughts of youth
 Under the skies:

I dreamed of the holy and tender truth
 That shone for me in my mother's eyes ;
 Of my little sister's innocent grace,
 And the mirthful lure in the olive face

Of a maid I had seen at the well that day,
 Singing low as I passed that way,
 And so sweet and wild were the notes of her song,
 That I listened long.

no

Was it the dawn that silvered and broke
 Over the hill?

Each at the other looked in amaze,
 And never a breathless word we spoke.
 Fast into rose and daffodil
 Deepened that splendor; athwart its blaze
 That pierced like a sword the gulf of night
 We saw a form that was shaped of the light,
 And we veiled our faces in awe and dread
 To hearken the tidings the Bright One told
 Oh! wonderful were the words he said
 Of a Child in Bethlehem's manger old.

The stars were drowned in that orient glow,
 The sky was ablaze like a meadow in spring;
 But each blossom there was a radiant face
 And each flash of glory a shining wing;
 They harped of peace and great good will,
 And such was their music that well I know
 There can never again in my soul be space
 For a sound of ill.

The h'ght died out as the sunset dies
 In the western skies;
 Swift went we to the Bethlehem khan,
 Many our questions laughed to scorn,
 But one, a gray and wrinkled man,
 With strange, deep eyes that searched the heart,
 Led us down to the child new-born
 In a dim-lighted cave apart.

ill

There on the straw the mother lay
 Van and white,
 But her look was so holy and rapt and mild

That it seemed to shed a marvellous light,
 Faint as the first rare gleam of day,
 Around the child.

It was as other children are
 Saving for something in the eyes,
 Starlike and clear and strangely wise
 Then came a sudden thought to me
 Of a lamb I had found on the waste afar;
 Lost and sick with hunger and cold,
 I had brought it back in my arms to the fold
 For tender ministry.

Dawn had flooded the east as a wave
 When we left the cave;
 All the world suddenly seemed to be
 Young and pure and joyous again;
 The others lingered to talk with the men,
 Full of wonder and rapture still;
 But I hastened back to the fold on the hill
 To tend the lamb that had need of me.

112

IF MARY HAD KNOWN

If Mary had known
 When she held her Babe's hands in her own
 Little hands that were tender and white as a rose,
 All dented with dimples from finger to wrist,
 Such as mothers have kissed
 That one day they must feel the fierce blows
 Of a hatred insane,
 Must redden with holiest stain,
 And grasp as their guerdon the boon of the bitterest

pain,
 Oh, I think that her sweet, brooding face
 Must have blanched with its anguish of knowledge

above her embrace.

But if Mary had known,
 As she held her Babe's hands in her own,
 What a treasure of gifts to the world they would bring ;
 What healing and hope to the hearts that must ache,
 And without him must break;

Had she known they would pluck forth death's sting
 And set open the door
 Of the close, jealous grave evermore,
 Making free who were captives in sorrow and darkness before,
 Oh, I think that a gracious sunrise
 Of rapture had broken across the despair of her eyes!

113

If Mary had known
 As she sat with her baby alone,
 And guided so gently his bare little feet
 To take their first steps from the throne of her knee,
 How weary must be
 The path that for them should be meet ;
 And how it must lead
 To the cross of humanity's need,
 Giving hissing and shame, giving blame and reproach
 for its need,
 Oh, I think that her tears would have dewed
 Those dear feet that must walk such a hard, starless
 way to the Rood!
 But if Mary had known,
 As she sat with her Baby alone,
 On what errands of mercy and peace they would go,
 How those footsteps would ring through the years of
 all time
 With an echo sublime,
 Making holy the land of their woe,
 That the pathway they trod
 Would guide the world back to its God,
 And lead ever upward away from the grasp of the clod,

She had surely forgot to be sad
And only remembered to be most immortally glad !

114

If Mary had known,
As she held him so closely, her own,
Cradling his shining, fair head on her breast,
Sunned over with ringlets as bright as the morn,
That a garland of thorn
On that tender brow would be pressed
Till the red drops would fall
Into eyes that looked out upon all,
Arim with a pity divine over clamor and brawl,
Oh, I think that her lullaby song
Would have died on her lips into wailing impassioned
and long!

But if Mary had known,
As she held him so closely, her own,
That over the darkness and pain he would be
The Conqueror hailed in all oncoming days,
The world's hope and praise,
And the garland of thorn,
The symbol of mocking and scorn
Would be a victorious diadem royally worn,
Oh, I think that ineffable joy

Must have flooded her soul as she bent o'er her wonderful Boy!

115

AT THE LONG SAULT

("Searching the pile of corpses the victors found four Frenchmen still breathing. Three had scarcely a spark of life . . . the fourth seemed likely to survive and they reserved him for future torments.")

Parkman's History.)

A prisoner under the stars I lie,
With no friend near;
To-morrow they lead me forth to die,
The stake is ready, the torments set,
They will pay in full their deadly debt ;
But I fear them riot ! Oh, none could fear
Of those who stood by Daulac's side

While he prayed and laughed and sang and fought
 In the very reek of death and caught
 The martyr passion that flamed from his face
 As he died!
 Where he led us we followed glad,
 For we loved him well;
 Some there were that held him mad,
 But we knew that a heavenly rage had place
 In that dauntless soul; the good God spake
 To us through him; we had naught to do
 Save only obey; and when his eyes
 Flashed and kindled like storm-swept skies,
 And his voice like a trumpet thrilled us through,
 We would have marched with delight for his sake
 To the jaws of hell.

116

The mists hung blue and still on the stream
 At the marge of dawn;
 The rapids laughed till we saw their teeth
 Like a snarling wolf's fangs glisten and gleam,
 Sweetly the pine trees underneath
 The shadows slept in the moonlight wan;
 Sweetly beneath the steps of the spring
 The great, grim forest was blossoming;
 And we fought, that springs for other men
 Might blossom again.
 Faint, thirst-maddened we prayed and fought
 By night and by day;
 Eyes glared at us with serpent hate
 Yet sometimes a hush fell, and then we heard naught

Save the wind's shrill harping far away,
 The piping of birds, and the softened calls
 Of the merry, distant water-falls;
 Then of other scenes we thought
 Of valleys beloved in sunny France,
 Purple vineyards of song and dance,
 Hopes and visions roseate;
 Of many a holy festal morn,
 And many a dream at vesper bell
 But anon the shuddering air was torn
 By noises such as the fiends of hell
 Might make in holding high holiday!
 Once, so bitter the death-storm hailed,
 We shrank and quailed.

117

Daulac sprang out before us then,
 Shared in our fears;
 Glorious was his face to see,
 The face of one who listens and hears
 Voices unearthly, summonings high
 Rang his tone like a clarion, "Men,
 See yonder star in the golden sky,
 Such a man's duty is to him
 A beacon that will not flicker nor dim
 Shining through darkness and despair.
 Almost the martyr's crown is yours!
 Thinking the price too high to be paid,
 Will you leave the sacrifice half made?
 I tell you God will answer the prayer
 Of the soul that endures!

"Comrades, far in the future I see
 A mighty land;
 Throned among the nations of earth,
 Noble and happy, calm and free;
 As a veil were lifted I see her stand,
 And out of that future a voice to me
 Promises that our names shall shine

On the page of her story with lustre divine
 Impelling to visions and deeds of worth.

118

"Ever thus since the world was begun,
 When a man hath given up his life,
 Safety and freedom have been won
 By the holy power of self-sacrifice ;
 For the memory of your mother's kiss
 Valiantly stand to the breach again.
 Comrades, blench not now from the strife,
 Quit you like men !"

Oh, we rushed to meet at our captain's side

Death as a bride!

All our brave striplings bravely fell.

I, less fortunate, slowly came

Back from that din of shot and yell

Slowly and gaspingly, to know

A harder fate reserved for me

Than that brief, splendid agony.

Through many a bitter pang and throe

My spirit must to-morrow go

To seek my comrades; but I bear

The tidings that our desperate stand

By the Long Sault has saved our land,

And God has answered Daulac's prayer.

119

THE EXILE

He told her that her far off shore was bleak and dour

to view,

And that her sky was dull and mirk while ours was

smiling blue.

She only sighed in answer, "It is even as ye say,
 But oh, the ragged splendor when the sun bursts
 through the gray!"

We brought her dew-wet roses from our fairest sum-
 mer bowers,

We bade her drink their fragrance, we heaped her lap
 with flowers;

She only said, with eyes that yearned, "Oh, if ye might
 have brought

The pale, unscented blossoms by my father's lowly
 cot!"

We bade her listen to the birds that sang so madly
 sweet,

The lyric of the laughing stream that dimpled at our
 feet;

"But, O," she cried, "I weary for the music wild that
 stirs

When keens the mournful western wind among my na-
 tive firs!"

120

We told her she had faithful friends and loyal hearts

near,

We prayed her take the fresher loves, we prayed her

be of cheer;

"Oh, ye are kind and true," she wept, "but woe's me

for the grace

Of tenderness that shines upon my mother's wrinkled

face!"

121

THE THREE SONGS

The poet sang of a battle-field

Where doughty deeds were done,

Where stout blows rang on helm and shield

And a kingdom's fate was spun

With the scarlet thread of victory,

And honor from death's grim revelry

Like a flame-red flower was won!
 So bravely he sang that all who heard
 With the sting of the fight and the triumph were
 stirred,
 And they cried, "Let us blazon his name on high,
 He has sung a song that will never die!"

Again, full throated, he sang of fame

And ambition's honeyed lure,
 Of the chaplet that garlands a mighty name,
 Till his listeners fired with the god-like flame

To do, to dare, to endure!
 The thirsty lips of the world were fain
 The cup of glamor he vaunted to drain,
 And the people murmured as he went by,
 "He has sung a song that will never die!"

And once more he sang, all low and apart,
 A song of the love that was born in his heart,
 Thinking to voice in unfettered strain
 Its sweet delight and its sweeter pain;

122

Nothing he cared what the throngs might say
 Who passed him unheeding from day to day,
 For he only longed with his melodies
 The soul of the one beloved to please.

The song of war that he sang is as naught,
 For the field and its heroes are long forgot,
 And the song he sang of fame and power
 Was never remembered beyond its hour!

Only to-day his name is known
 By the song he sang apart and alone,
 And the great world pauses with joy to hear
 The notes that were strung for a lover's ear.

123

IN AN OLD TOWN GARDEN

Shut from the clamor of the street
 By an old wall with lichen grown,

It holds apart from jar and fret
A peace and beauty all its own.

The freshness of the springtime rains
And dews of morning linger here;

It holds the glow of summer noons
And ripest twilights of the year.

Above its bloom the evening stars
Look down at closing of the day,

And in its sweet and shady walks

Winds spent with roaming love to stray,

Up gathering to themselves the breath
Of wide-blown roses white and red,

The spice of musk and lavender
Along its winding alleys shed.

Outside are shadeless, troubled streets
And souls that quest for gold and gain,

Lips that have long forgot to smile
And hearts that burn and ache with pain.

124

But here is all the sweet of dreams,
The grace of prayer, the boon of rest,

The spirit of old songs and loves
Dwells in this garden blossom-blest.

Here would I linger for a space,
And walk herein with memory;

The world will pass me as it may
And hope will minister to me.

125

THE SEEKER

I sought for my happiness over the world,

Oh, eager and far was my quest;
I sought it on mountain and desert and sea,

I asked it of east and of west.
I sought it in beautiful cities of men,

On shores that were sunny and blue,
And laughter and lyric and pleasure were mine

In palaces wondrous to view,
 Oh, the world gave me much to my plea and my prayer
 But never I found aught of happiness there!

Then I took my way back to a valley of old

And a little brown house by a rill,
 Where the winds piped all day in the sentinel firs

That guarded the crest of the hill ;
 I went by the path that my childhood had known

Through the bracken and up by the glen,
 And I paused at the gate of the garden to drink

The scent of sweet-briar again;
 The homelight shone out through the dusk as of yore
 And happiness waited for me at the door!

126

THE POET' S THOUGHT

It came to him in rainbow dreams,
 Blent with the wisdom of the sages,
 Of spirit and of passion born;
 In words as lucent as the morn
 He prisoned it, and now it gleams
 A jewel shining through the ages.

127

THE CALL

Mother of her who is close to my heart

Cease to chide!

For no small thing must I wander afar

From the tender arms and lips of my bride

My love with eyes like the glowing star

In the twilight sky apart.

Couldst't thou have seen Him standing there

Ere the day was born,

With the mild high look that was like a prayer,

Thou wouldst't not marvel that I must leave all

I hold most dear to answer the call

Of that wonderful morn.

We were casting our nets in the sea,
Andrew and I;

Over the mountains a young wind came
To kiss the waters of Galilee,
And in the calm blue northern sky
The gleaming crest of old Hermon rose
Girt with its diadem of snows,
And the east was smit with flame.

All our thoughts were simple and glad

As toilers' should be;

Andrew, that careless, dark-eyed lad

Sang a song right merrily,

Joyous of melody and word,

As he worked with oar and net and sail,

128

But I dreamed of the face that would blush and pale
When my step should be heard!

Then, as we lifted heedless eyes,

We saw Him there,

Where the silver waters curled on the shore;

Behind Him the radiance of the skies

Shining over His long, fair hair

Weathed it as with a crown of light;

And oh, the grandeur and the grace

Of that pale and kingly face

We were weary and hungered with toil of the night

But we thought not of it more!

He looked upon us with eyes that must see

Far in our hearts past mortal ken;

All the delights of the world grew dim

Sweeter is seemed to suffer pain

And wander, outcast of men with Him,
 Than share in another's joy and gain;
 Spake He thus royally, "Come with me;
 I will make you fishers of men."
 Mother of her who weeps at my side
 Cease to chide!
 Thou knowest not how that one word rings
 Ever by day and by night in my ear,
 I cannot hearken to olden things
 I cannot listen to hope or fear;
 Mother of her who is dearest of all,
 I must follow the Nazarene's call!

129

9

THE OLD HOME CALLS

Come back to me, little dancing feet that roam the wide
 world o'er,
 I long for the lilt of your flying steps in my silent
 rooms once more;
 Come back to me, little voices gay with laughter and
 with song,
 Come back, little hearts beating high with hopes, I
 have missed and mourned you long.
 My roses bloom in my garden walks all sweet and wet
 with the dew,
 My lights shine down on the long hill road the waning
 twilights through,
 The swallows flutter about my eaves as in the years of
 old,
 And close about me their steadfast arms the lispings pine
 trees fold.
 But I weary for you at morn and eve, O, children of
 my love,
 Come back to me from your pilgrim ways, from the

seas and plains ye rove,
Come over the meadows and up the lane to my door

set open wide,
And sit ye down where the red light shines from my
welcoming fireside.

130

I keep for you all your childhood dreams, your glad-
ness and delights,

The joy of days in the sun and rain, the sleep of care-
free nights,

All the sweet faiths ye have lost and sought again shall
be your own,

Darlings, come to my empty heart I am old and still
and alone!

131

GENIUS

A hundred generations have gone into its making,
With all their love and tenderness, with all their
dreams and tears;
Their vanished joy and pleasure, their pain and their
heart-breaking,
Have colored this rare blossom of the long-unfruit-
ful years.

Their victory and their laughter for this have strong
men given,
For this have sweet, dead women paid in patience
which survives
That a great soul might bring the world, as from the
gate of heaven,
All that was rich and beautiful in those forgotten
lives.

132

LOVE'S PRAYER

Beloved, this the heart I offer thee

Is purified from old idolatry,

From outworn hopes, and from the lingering stain

Of passion's dregs, by penitential pain.

Take thou it, then, and fill it up for me
 With thine unstinted love, and it shall be
 An earthy chalice that is made divine
 By its red draught of sacramental wine.

133

THE PRISONER

I lash and writhe against my prison bars,
 And watch with sullen eyes the gaping crowd . . .
 Give me my freedom and the burning stars,
 The hollow sky, and crags of moonlit cloud !
 Once I might range across the trackless plain,
 And roar with joy, until the desert air
 And wide horizons echoed it again :
 I feared no foe, for I was monarch there !
 I saw my shadow on the parching sand,
 When the hot sun had kissed the mountain's rim ;
 And when the moon rose o'er long wastes of land,
 I sought my prey by some still river's brim ;
 And with me my fierce love, my tawny mate,
 Meet mother of strong cubs, meet lion's bride . . .
 We made our lair in regions desolate,
 The solitude of wildernesses wide.
 They slew her . . . and I watched the life-blood
 flow
 From her torn flank, and her proud eyes grow dim :
 I howled her dirge above her while she lay,
 Red moon climb up the black horizon's rim

134

Me, they entrapped . . . cowards ! They did not
 dare

To fight, as brave men do, without disguise,
 And face my unleashed rage ! The hidden snare

Was their device to win an untamed prize.

I am a captive . . . not for me the vast,
White dome of sky above the blinding sand,

The sweeping rapture of the desert blast
Across long ranges of untrodden land!

Yet still they fetter not my thought ! In dreams
I, desert-born, tread the hot wastes once more,

Quench my deep thirst in cool, untainted streams,
And shake the darkness with my kingly roar!

US

COMPANIONED

I walked to-day, but not alone,

Adown a windy, sea-girt lea,
For memory, spendthrift of her charm

Peopled the silent lands for me.

The faces of old comradeship

In golden youth were round my way,

And in the keening wind I heard
The songs of many an orient day.

And to me called, from out the pines
And woven grasses, voices dear,

As if from elfin lips should fall
The mimicked tones of yesteryear.

Old laughter echoed o'er the leas

And love-lipped dreams the past had kept,
From wayside blooms like honeyed bees

To company my wanderings crept.

And so I walked, but not alone,
Right glad companionship had I,

On that gray meadow waste between
Dim-litten sea and winnowed sky.

136

YOU

Only a long, low-lying lane

That follows to the misty sea,
 Across a bare and russet plain
 Where wild winds whistle vagrantly;
 I know that many a fairer path
 With lure of song and bloom may woo,
 But oh! I love this lonely strath
 Because it is so full of you.
 Here we have walked in elder years,
 And here your truest memories wait,
 This spot is sacred to your tears,
 That to your laughter dedicate;
 Here, by this turn, you gave to me
 A gem of thought that glitters yet,
 This tawny slope is graciously
 By a remembered smile beset.
 Here once you lingered on an hour
 When stars were shining in the west,
 To gather one pale, scented flower
 And place it smiling on your breast;
 And since that eve its fragrance blows
 For me across the grasses sere,
 Far sweeter than the latest rose,
 That faded bloom of yesteryear.

137

For me the sky, the sea, the world,
 Have beckoning visions wild and fair,
 The mystery of a tale untold,
 The grace of an unuttered prayer.
 Let others choose the fairer path
 That winds the dimpling valley through,
 I gladly seek this lonely strath
 Companions by my dreams of you.

138

UNRECORDED

I like to think of the many words
 The Master in his early days
 Must have spoken to them of Nazareth
 Words not freighted with life and death,
 Piercing through soul and heart like swords.
 But gracious greeting and grateful phrase,
 The simple speech
 That plain folk utter each to each.
 Ere over him too darkly lay
 The prophet shadow of Calvary,
 I think he talked in very truth
 With the innocent gayety of youth,
 Laughing upon some festal day,
 Gently, with sinless boyhood's glee.
 I think if he had ever said
 To a mother apart,
 Cradling her baby's shining head,
 "Thy man-child is strong of limb and heart,"
 She must have been from that gladsome day
 Thrilled with enduring pride alway,
 Fearless of any future dread,
 Knowing the son upon her knee
 Worthy her pain and love would be.

139

Or if by the dusty wayside well,
 From the glare and heat
 Of the burning noon a wayfarer sought
 A moment's rest where the palm shade fell,
 And he said to him "The day is hot,
 And your road is rough for wandering feet,"
 Then I think on his way the pilgrim went
 As one who has shared in a sacrament,

Feeling no longer on him press

The burden of his weariness.

If he said to a maid, "The sunset lies
Redly on Nazareth hills to-night,"
Each sunset of her life would bring
A benedictive memory
Of his haunting face and holy eyes ;
Or if to a bridegroom thus in spring,
"The wife of thy youth is fair and wise,"
So would she ever have seemed to be
In her husband's sight.

If he but bade a passing guest
His meal to share,
Would not the one so honored deem
Himself of all most highly blessed,
The food he ate heaven's manna rare?
Or when he to a friend addressed
A word of thanks for service done,
Or homely, familiar favor, none
Of richer recompense could dream

140

No evangelist's golden pen

Wrote them for us

The words of the Master to those he might meet

By the carpenter's bench or in Nazareth street

But in them I think there well might be

It is surely sweet to fancy thus

All of the benediction for men

All of the tender humanity,

That I heaven the words of his later age

On the holy page.

141

WITH TEARS THEY BURIED YOU
TO-DAY

With tears they buried you to-day,
But well I knew no turf could hold
Your gladness long beneath the mould,

Or cramp your laughter in the clay;

I smiled while others wept for you
Because I knew.

And now you sit with me to-night
Here in our old, accustomed place;
Tender and mirthful is your face,

Your eyes with starry joy are bright

Oh, you are merry as a song
For love is strong!

They think of you as lying there

Down in the churchyard grim and old ;
They think of you as mute and cold,
A wan, white thing that once was fair,
With dim, sealed eyes that never may
Look on the day.

But love cannot be confined so

In clod and darkness; it must rise
And seek its own in radiant guise,

With immortality aglow,

Making of death's triumphant sting
A little thing.

142

Ay, we shall laugh at those who deem
Our hearts are sundered! Listen, sweet,
The tripping of the wind's swift feet
Along the by-ways of our dream
And hark the whisper of the rose
Wilding that blows.

Oh, still you love those simple things,
And still you love them more with me ;
The grave has won no victory ;
It could not clasp your shining wings,
It could not keep you from my side,
Dear and my bride!

143

IN MEMORY OF "MAGGIE"

A pussy-cat who was the household pet for seventeen years.

Naught but a little cat, you say;

Yet we remember her,

A creature loving, loyal, kind,
 With merry, mellow purr;
 The faithful friend of many years,
 Shall we not give her meed of tears?
 Sleek-suited in her velvet coat,
 White-breasted and bright-eyed,
 Feeling when she was praised and stroked
 A very human pride;
 A quiet nook was sure to please
 Where she might take her cushioned ease.
 Little gray friend, we shall not feel
 Ashamed to grieve for you;
 Many we know of human-kind
 Are not so fond and true;
 Dear puss, in all the years to be
 We'll keep your memory loyally.

144

REALIZATION

I smiled with skeptic mocking where they told me
 you were dead,
 You of the airy laughter and lightly twinkling feet ;
 "They tell a dream that haunted a chill gray dawn," I
 said,
 "Death could not touch or claim a thing so vivid and
 so sweet!"
 I looked upon you coffined amid your virgin flowers,
 But even that white silence could bring me no belief :
 "She lies in maiden sleep," I said, "and in the young-
 ling hours
 Her sealed dark eyes will open to scorn our foolish
 grief."
 But when I went at moonrise to our ancient trysting
 place
 And, oh, the wind was keening in the fir-boughs
 overhead !
 And you came never to me with your little gypsy face,
 Your lips and hands of welcome, I knew that you
 were dead!

145

THE GARDEN IN WINTER

Frosty-white and cold it lies
 Underneath the fretful skies;
 Snowflakes flutter where the red
 Banners of the poppies spread,
 And the drifts are wide and deep
 Where the lilies fell asleep.

But the sunsets o'er it throw
 Flame-like splendor, lucent glow,
 And the moonshine makes it gleam
 Like a wonderland of dream,
 And the sharp winds all the day
 Pipe and whistle shrilly gay.

Safe beneath the snowdrifts lie
 Rainbow buds of by-and-by;
 In the long, sweet days of spring
 Music of bluebells shall ring,
 And its faintly golden cup
 Many a primrose will hold up.

Though the winds are keen and chill
 Roses' hearts are beating still,
 And the garden tranquilly
 Dreams of happy hours to be
 In the summer days of blue
 All its dreamings will come true.

146

THE DIFFERENCE

When we were together, heart of my heart, on that
 un forgotten quest,
 With your tender arm about me thrown and your head
 upon my breast,
 There came a grief that was bitter and deep and
 straitly dwell with me,
 And I shunned it not, so sweet it was to suffer and be
 with thee.

And now when no more against mine own is beating
 thine eager heart,
 When thine eyes are turned from the glance of mine
 and our ways are far apart,
 A dear and long-sought joy has come my constant
 guest to be,

And I love it not, so bitter it is, unfelt, unshared, by
thee.

147

THE POET

There was strength in him and the weak won freely
from it,
There was an infinite pity, and hard hearts grew soft
thereby,
There was truth so unshrinking and starry-shining,
Men read clear by its light and learned to scorn a lie.

His were songs so full of a wholesome laughter

Those whose courage was ashen found it once more
afire,
His was a child-like faith and wandering feet were
guided,
His was a hope so joyous despair was put to shame.

His was the delicate insight and his the poignant vi-
sion
Whereby the world might learn what wine-lipped
roses know,
What a drift of rain might lisp on a gray sea-dawn-
ing,
Or a pale spring of the woodland babble low.

148

He builded a castle of dream and a palace of rainbow
fancy,
And the starved souls of his fellows lived in them
and grew glad;
And yet there were those who mocked the gifts of
his generous giving,
And some but he smiled and forgave them who
deemed him wholly mad!

149

THE MOTHER

Here I lean over you, small son, sleeping

Warm in my arms,

And I con to my heart all your dew-fresh charms,

As you lie close, close in my hungry hold . . .
 Your hair like a miser's dream of gold,
 And the white rose of your face far fairer,
 Finer, and rarer
 Than all the flowers in the young year's keeping;
 Over lips half parted your low breath creeping
 Is sweeter than violets in April grasses ;
 Though your eyes are fast shut I can see their blue,
 Splendid and soft as starshine in heaven,
 With all the joyance and wisdom given
 From the many souls who have staunchly striven
 Through the dead years to be strong and true.
 Those fine little feet in my worn hands holden . . .
 Where will they tread ?
 Valleys of shadow or heights dawn-red?
 And those silken fingers, O, wee, white son,
 What valorous deeds shall by them be done
 In the future that yet so distant is seeming
 To my fond dreaming?
 What words all so musical and golden
 With starry truth and poesy olden

150

Shall those lips speak in the years on-coming?
 O, child of mine, with waxen brow,
 Surely your words of that dim to-morrow
 Rapture and power and grace must borrow
 From the poignant love and holy sorrow
 Of the heart that shrines and cradles you now !

 Some bitter day you will love another,
 To her will bear

 Love-gifts and woo her . . . then must I share
 You and your tenderness ! Now you are mine
 From your feet to your hair so golden and fine,
 And your crumpled finger-tips . . . mine com-
 pletely,
 Wholly and sweetly;

Mine with kisses deep to smother,
 No one so near to you now as your mother !
 Others may hear your words of beauty,
 But your precious silence is mine alone;
 Here in my arms I have enrolled you,
 Away from the grasping world I fold you,
 Flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone !

151

TO ONE HATED

"Hate is only Love that has missed its way."

Had it been when I came to the valley where the paths
 parted asunder,
 Chance had led my feet to the way of love, not hate,
 I might have cherished you well, have been to you fond
 and faithful,
 Great as my hatred is, so might my love have been
 great.

Each cold word of mine might have been a kiss im-
 passioned,
 Warm with the throb of my heart, thrilled with my
 pulse's leap,
 And every glance of scorn, lashing, pursuing, and
 stinging,
 As a look of tenderness would have been wondrous
 and deep.

Bitter our hatred is, old and strong and unchanging,
 Twined with the fibres of life, blent with body and
 soul,
 But as its bitterness, so might have been our love's
 sweetness
 Had it not missed the way strange missing and sad !
 to its goal.

152

WHILE THE FATES SLEEP

Come, let us to the sunways of the west,
 Hasten, while crystal dew the rose-cups fill,

Let us dream dreams again in our blithe quest
 O'er whispering wold and hill.

Castles of air yon wimpling valleys keep

Where milk-white mist steals from the purpling sea,
 They shall be ours in the moon's wizardry,

While the fates, wearied, sleep.

The viewless spirit of the wind will sing
In the soft starshine by the reedy mere,

The elfin harps of hemlock boughs will ring
Fitfully far and near;

The fields will yield their trove of spice and musk,
And balsam from the glens of pine will fall,
Till twilight weaves its tangled shadows all

In one dim web of dusk.

Let us put tears and memories away,

While the fates sleep time stops for revelry ;

Let us look, speak, and kiss as if no day
Has been or yet will be;

Let us make friends with laughter 'neath the moon,
With music on the immemorial shore,
Yea, let us dance as lovers danced of yore

The fates will waken soon!

153

THE FAREWELL

He rides away with sword and spur,

Garbed in his warlike blazonry,
With gallant glance and smile for her

Upon the dim-lit balcony.
Her kiss upon his lips is warm

Upon his breast he wears her rose,
From her fond arms to stress and storm

Of many a bannered field he goes.

He dreams of danger, glory, strife,

His voice is blithe, his hand is strong,
He rides perchance to death from life

And leaves his lady with a song;
But her blue-brimmed eyes are dim

With her deep anguish standing there,
Sending across the world with him

The dear, white guerdon of her prayer.

For her the lonely vigil waits

When ashen dawnlights come and go,
Each bringing through the future's gates

Its presages of fear and woe;
For her the watch with soul and heart

Grown sick with dread, as women may,
Yet keeping still her pain apart

From the wan duties of the day.

154

'Tis hers to walk when sunsets yield

Their painted splendors to the skies,
And dream on some far battlefield

Perchance alone, unwatched, he dies;
'Tis hers to kneel in patient prayer

When midnight stars keep sentinel,
Lest the chill death-dews damp the hair

Upon the brow she loves so well.

So stands she, white and sad and sweet,

Upon the latticed balcony,
From golden hair to slender feet

No lady is so fair as she;
He loves her true, he holds her dear,

But he must ride on dangerous quest,
With gallant glance and smile of cheer,

And her red rose upon his breast.

155

THE OLD MAN'S GRAVE

Make it where the winds may sweep
Through the pine boughs soft and deep,
And the murmur of the sea
Come across the orient lea,
And the falling raindrops sing
Gently to his slumbering.

Make it where the meadows wide
Greenly lie on every side,
Harvest fields he reaped and trod,
Vestering slopes of clover sod,
Orchard lands where bloom and blow
Trees he planted long ago.

Make it where the starshine dim
May be always close to him

And the sunrise glory spread
 Lavishly around his bed.
 And the dewy grasses creep
 Tenderly above his sleep.

Since these things to him were dear
 Through full many a well-spent year,
 It is surely meet their grace
 Should be on his resting-place,
 And the murmur of the sea
 Be his dirge eternally.

156

FOREVER

I
 With you I shall ever be;
 Over land and sea
 My thoughts will companion you;
 With yours shall my laughter chime,
 And my step keep time
 In the dusk and dew
 With yours in blithesome rhyme;
 In all of your joy shall I rejoice,
 On my lips your sorrow shall find a voice,
 And when your tears in bitterness fall
 Mine shall mingle with them all;
 With you in waking and dream I shall be,
 In the place of shadow and memory,
 Under young springtime moons,
 And on harvest noons,
 And when the stars are withdrawn
 From the white pathway of the dawn.

II

O, my friend, nothing shall ever part
 My soul from yours, yours from my heart !
 I am yours and you mine, in silence and in speech,

Death will only seal us each to each.
 Through the darkness we shall fare with fearless jest,
 Starward we shall go on a joyous new quest;
 There be many worlds, as we shall prove,
 Many suns and systems, but only one love!

157

BY AN AUTUMN FIRE

Now at our casement the wind is shrilling,
 Poignant and keen
 And all the great boughs of the pines between
 It is harping a lone and hungering strain
 To the eldritch weeping of the rain;
 And then to the wild, wet valley flying
 It is seeking, sighing,
 Something lost in the summer olden.
 When night was silver and day was golden;
 But out on the shore the waves are moaning
 With ancient and never fulfilled desire,
 And the spirits of all the empty spaces,
 Of all the dark and haunted places,
 With the rain and the wind on their death-white faces,
 Come to the lure of our leaping fire.
 But we bar them out with this rose-red splendor
 From our blithe domain,
 And drown the whimper of wind and rain
 With undaunted laughter, echoing long,
 Cheery old tale and gay old song;
 Ours is the joyance of ripe fruition,
 Attained ambition.
 Ours is the treasure of tested loving,

Friendship that needs no further proving;

158

No more of springtime hopes, sweet and uncertain,
Here we have largess of summer in fee
Pile high the logs till the flame be leaping,
At bay the chill of the autumn keeping,
While pilgrim-wise, we may go a-reaping
In the fairest meadow of memory!

159

