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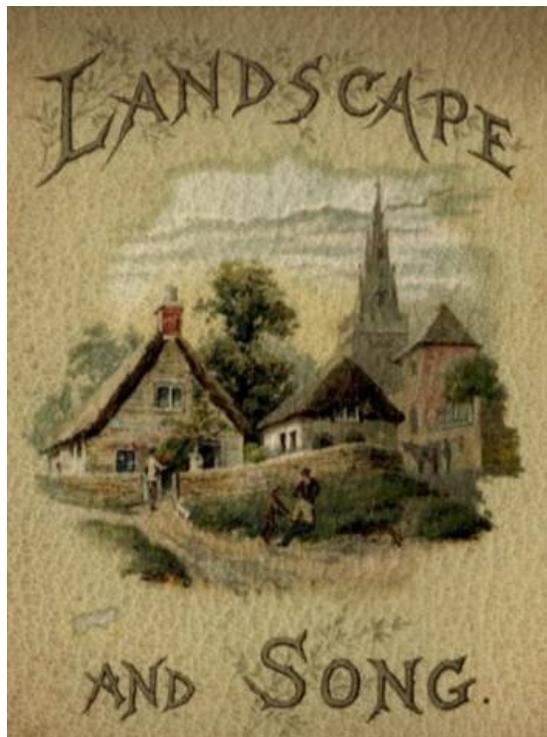
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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK LANDSCAPE AND SONG ***



*To Annetto
from
Uncle Tom.
Xmas 1887-
Toronto, Canada,*



Landscape and Song.

Selected
and
Arranged
by
E. NESBIT.



LONDON:
HENRY J. DRANE & CO.
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I.

What dreams the flower cups enfold
Within their fragrant leaves,
Of meadow-ways grown fair with
spring,
Soft mists that April weaves;
And cottage gardens where the
scent
Of flowers is with the wood-
smoke blent.

The ceaseless ripple of the brook,
Babbling against the broken arch,
The little firwood's tasselled spires,
The cloud of verdure on the larch;
The gold-green glimmer of the
woods,
Where tender twilight always
broods.

Brooke. *C.*

II.

There is dew for the flow'ret,
And honey for the bee,
And bowers for the wild bird,
And love for you and me.

There are tears for the many,
And pleasures for the few,
But let the world pass on, dear,
There's love for me and you.

Hood.



III.

THE ROSE IN OCTOBER.

late!
tree,
nights
with song?
were long
delights?
and slights,
wheat
heat,

O late and sweet, too sweet, too
What nightingale will sing to thee?
The empty nest, the shivering
The dead leaves by the garden gate,
And cawing crows for thee will wait,
O sweet and late!
Where wert thou when the soft June
Were faint with perfume, glad
Where wert thou when the days
And steeped in Summer's young
What hopest thou now but checks
Brief days, lone nights?
Stay, there's a gleam of Winter
Far on the hill; down in the woods
A very heaven of stillness broods;
And through the mellow sun's worn
Lo! tender pulses round thee beat,
O late and sweet!

IV.

There's beauty all around our paths, if
 but our watchful eyes
 Can trace it midst familiar things and
 through their lowly guise;
 We may find it when a hedgerow
 showers its blossoms o'er our way,
 Or a cottage window sparkles forth in
 the last red light of day.

F.

Hemans.



V.

HALF covered with last year's leaves,
 She peeped from her russet bed;
 The great bare branches of the trees
 Were tossed and swayed overhead;
 The hedge looked barren and prickly,
 Without the sign of a leaf;
 Over the flower there bowed a head
 Grown cold with the snows of grief.

The violet's fragile
 petals
 Enfolded a heart of
 gold,
 And a deeper wealth of
 perfume,
 Than the tiny cup
 could hold;
 So the great wind
 roaring above
 Sent a tiny zephyr
 down,
 To drift aside the
 sheltering bloom,
 And bereave her of
 her crown.

It stole the familiar scent,

To give to the burdened heart
 With only a cold north wind
 In the world to take its part;
 The flower died in the bleak March air,
 And the heart went on its way;
 The violet's life was blooming there,
 And melting the snows away.
Caris Brooke.



Yet nature holds a gracious
 hand,
 Her ancient ways pursuing;
 And spreads the charms we
 loved of old,
 To aid the heart's renewing.

Here her long crests of
 fringed crag
 Allure the skyward
 swallows;
 Here the still dove's low love-
 note floats
 Above her leafy hollows.

Here its calm strength her
 hillside rears,
 From heaving slopes of clover;
 Here still the pewit pipes and flits
 Within his furzy cover.

Here hums the wild-bee in the
 thyme,
 Here glows the royal heather;
 And youth comes back upon the
 breeze,
 And youth's unclouded
 weather.

Palgrave.

F.T.



VII.

AN APPEAL.

Dear, do not die!
 Of cypresses and grassy graves sing I--
 I hang with wreaths of song death's
 grief-grown cross,
 And weep, to music, for Life's infinite
 loss,
 And make the sweetest verse of bitterest
 woe,
 --I know the way because I love you so;
 But I have written griefs that I have
 known
 In other's heart's blood, never in my
 own.
 If *you* died what more could be sung or
 said?
 I could not sing of Death if you were
 dead.

Dear, do not love!
 Do not love *me*, keep still aloof, above!
 While you and Love in far-off glory stand
 Clear sounds the voice, and harp
 responds to hand.
 But if you loved me--if you came quite
 near
 And set Love 'mid life's common things
 and dear--
 Mute would the voice be, Love would be
 too fair
 To waste upon the wide world's empty
 air,
 And, songless, I should droop and vainly

pine--

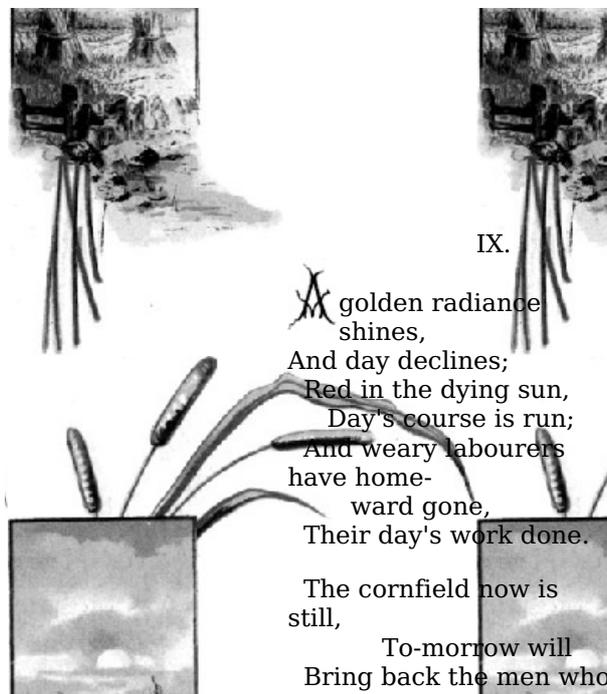
I could not sing of Love if you were
mine! *E. Nesbit.*



VIII.

I know the way she
went
Home with her
maiden
 posy,
For her feet have
touch'd
 the meadows
And left the daisies
 rosy.

Tennyson.



IX.

~~X~~ golden radiance
shines,
And day declines;
Red in the dying sun,
Day's course is run;
And weary labourers
have home-
ward gone,
Their day's work done.

The cornfield now is
still,
 To-morrow will
Bring back the men who



reap:
 But now asleep
 The woods and fields
 and
 meadows seem to
 lie--
 Restful as I.

Nesbit.



X.

As a twig trembles which a
 bird
 Lights on to sing, then
 leaves unbent,
 So is my memory thrilled
 and stirred;
 I only know she came and
 went.

unriven,
 content,
 heaven;--

As clasps some lake, by gusts
 The blue dome's measureless
 So my soul held that moment's
 I only know she came and went.

heaps
 scent,
 sleeps;--

As at one bound, our swift Spring
 The orchard full of bloom and
 So clove her May my wintry
 I only know she came and went.

tent;
 stays;--

An angel stood and met my gaze
 Through the low doorway of my
 The tent is struck, the vision
 I only know she came and went.

Oh, when the room grows
 slowly dim,
 And life's last oil is
 nearly spent,
 One gush of light these
 eyes will brim,
 Only to think she came
 and went.

J.R. Lowell.



XI.

EVENING SONG.

Waking, I dream of thy life that shall
be
Never by sorrow made weary;
Earth shall be soft with love for thee,
Down-lined the nest of my dearie.
Millions of flowers to gladden thy
way,
Springing from seeds that my heart
sets to-day.
Sleep, darling baby, baby!

Sleeping, dream thou of the Spirit of
Spring--
Of sweets and of scents she is
bringing;
Just for the flowers' sake thrushes will
sing,
Flowers blow for love of the singing.
In the world's harmony take thou thy
part,
So shall the springtide bloom in thy
heart!
Sleep, darling baby, baby!

E.



XII.

Now comes the first chill
whisper of the
end

While yet the woods are green
and skies are

blue;

While under loads of corn great
waggons bend,

And sunshine makes us glad the
whole day through.

The trees are full of leaf and of
delight,

Yet through them sighs the
forecast of the time

When the lean branches shall be
wondrous, white

With winter's lovely radiant frost
and rime.

The fallen leaves as yet are hardly
missed,

The rest will fade--until the woods
are bare,

And the dim glades where summer
lovers kissed,

Forget how leafy and divine they
were.

And in our souls come whispers of
despair,

"Failure again--failure for
evermore!

Leaves only for one summer's space
are fair,

No flower can live to see the fruit
it bore."

Yet every spring millions of flowers
have birth,

And every autumn brings its fruits
and sheaves;

But when the fruit and grain make
glad the earth,

Dead are the flowers, and falling
are the leaves.

Though all our lives we see our dear
dreams die,--

Each noble dream brings fruit. It
may not be

The fruit we hoped it would be
followed by,

But the fruit lasts to all eternity.

No seed is lost--in earth's brown
bosom cast;

No deed is lost--of all the deeds we
do;
Each grows to fruit--is harvested at
last,
Haply in shape undreamed of, fair,
and new.
And, though we die before the end be
won,

and other men
the end of what
Our deeds live on;
will cry,
Seeing



we have
begun,
"Still lives the
fruit
for which the
flowers
had to die!"

E. Nesbit.



XIII.



Birds, joyous birds, of
the wander-
ing wing!
Whence is it ye come
with the
flowers of Spring?
"We come from the
shores of the
green old Nile,
From the land where the
roses of
Sharon smile,
And each worn wing
hath regained
its home
Under peasants' roof-
trees or
monarch's dome."

And what have ye found in the
monarch's dome,
Since last ye traversed the blue sea's
foam?
"We have found a change, we have
found a pall,
And a gloom o'ershadowing the
banquet's hall,
And a mark on the floor as of life-drops
spilt,--
Naught looks the same, save the nest
we built."



O joyous birds! it hath
still
 been so;
Through the halls of
kings
 doth the tempest
go!
But the huts of the
hamlet
 lie still and deep,
And the hills o'er their
quiet a vigil keep:
Say, what have ye
found in
 the peasant's cot,
Since last ye parted
from
 that sweet spot?--

"A change we have found there--and many a
change!
Faces and footsteps, and all things strange!
Gone are the heads of the silvery hair,
And the young that were, have a brow of care.
And the place is hushed where the children
played--
Naught looks the same, save the nest we made."
F.

Hemans.





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