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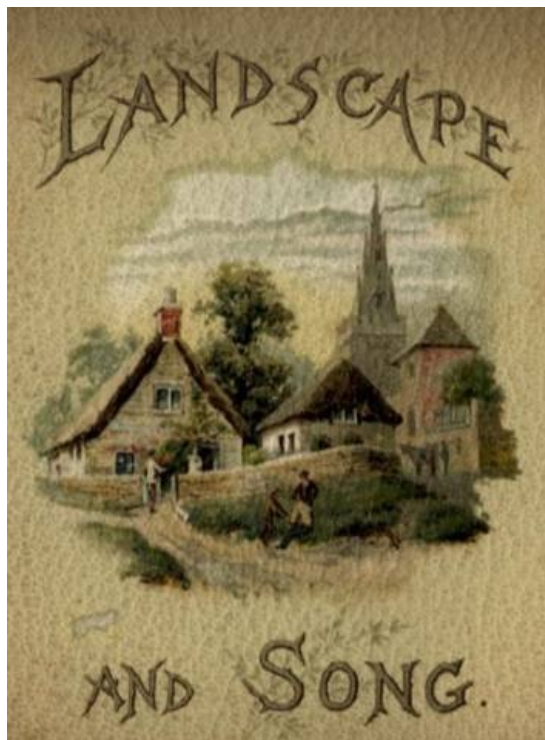
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\*\*\* START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK LANDSCAPE AND SONG \*\*\*



*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--

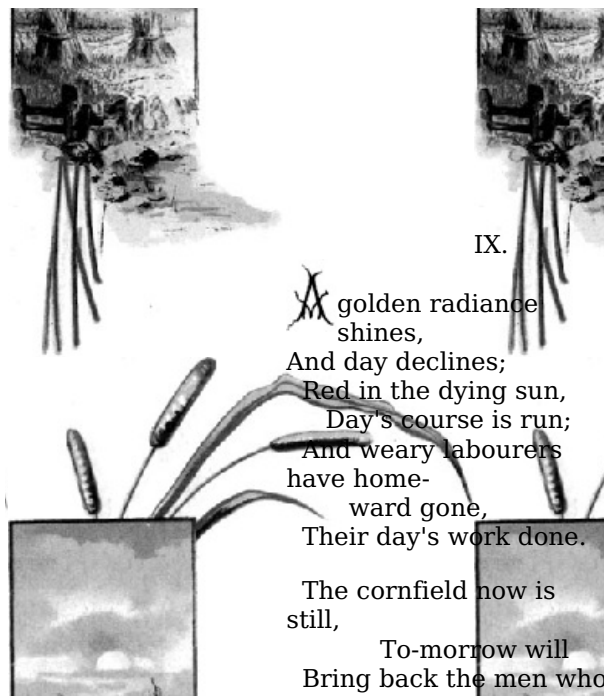
I could not sing of Love if you were  
mine! *E. Nesbit.*



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.

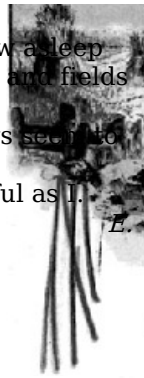
The cornfield now is  
still,  
    To-morrow will  
Bring back the men who





reap:  
 But now a sleep  
 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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