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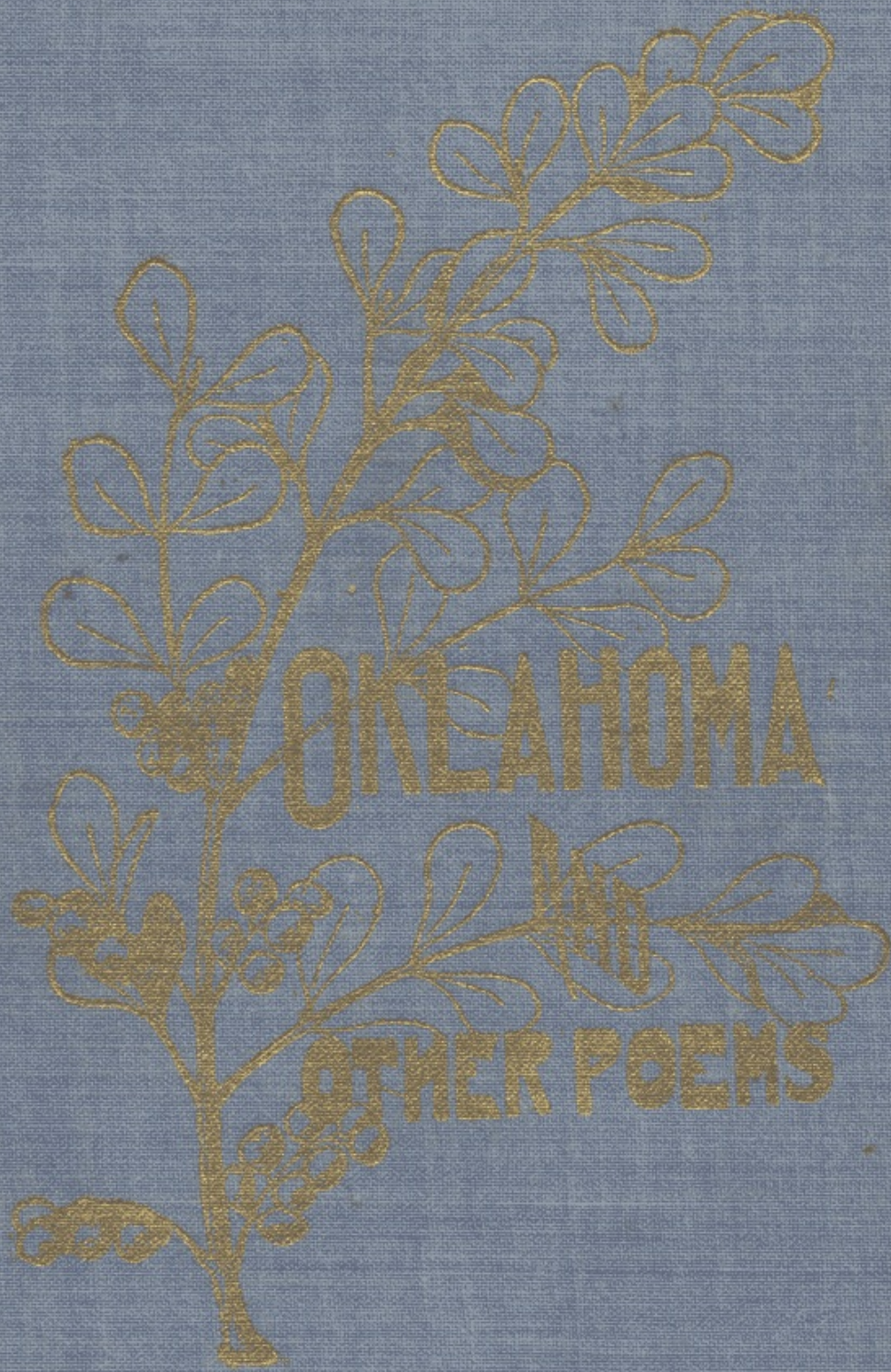
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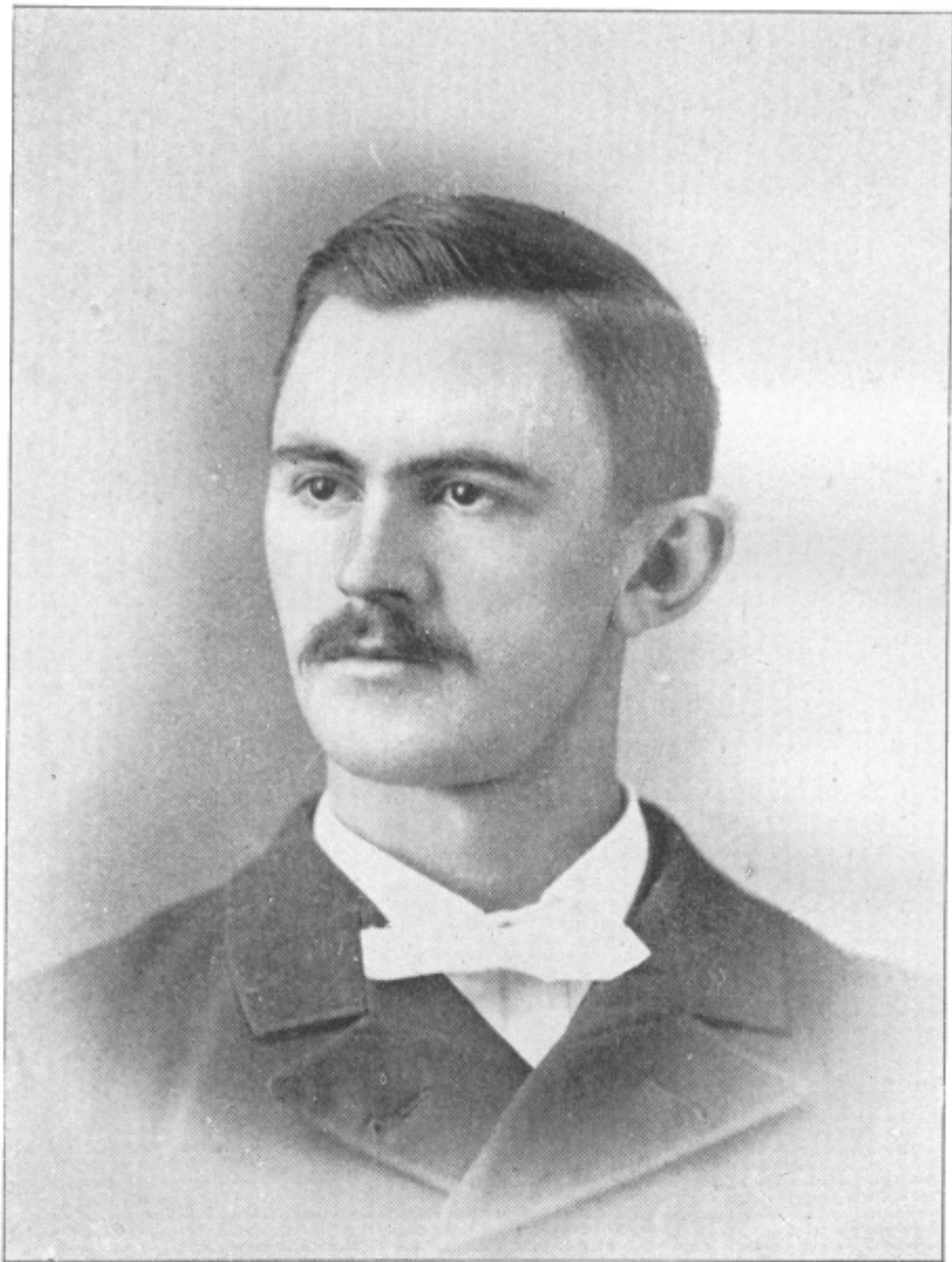
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\*\*\* START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK OKLAHOMA AND OTHER POEMS \*\*\*





*Freeman E. Miller,*

**OKLAHOMA**

AND

**OTHER POEMS**

BY

**FREEMAN E. MILLER, A.M.,**

**PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE IN THE**

[pg 2]

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BUFFALO, N.Y.

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[pg 3]

TO

**JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY,**

**IN AFFECTIONATE**

**MEMORY OF OTHER DAYS.**

*Our dearest joys forever flow  
From fountains of the Long Ago,  
That from the heights of pleasures past  
Flood all the present valleys vast,  
And with eternal glees provide  
The future's endless ocean tide.*

---

[pg 4]

*To ope each cage where a heartless age  
Hath chained the birds of singing,  
Till Love's own glee that is fond and free  
Shall laugh where they are winging,—  
Such is my wish. 'Tis true, hold I,  
That songs, like birds, in bondage die.*

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## OKLAHOMA.

Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
Land, O, land of the Fair God,  
Land where ancient, savage races  
Through barbarian ages trod!  
Through thy story fancy traces  
Facts above what fictions say,  
Where the world with haste advances,—  
Born are nations in a day!  
Where the wigwam stood so lonely,  
Lordly cities rise in might;  
Where spread desert wildness only,  
Fertile farms and homes delight.  
Thou hast summoned to thy bosom  
From the ends of all the earth,  
All the youngest, strongest, bravest,  
Full of will and wondrous worth.  
O'er thy valleys grow the blossoms  
Culled from earth's remotest sod;  
Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
Land, O, Land of the Fair God!

Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
There is music in thy name.  
There is gladness in thy glory,

There is fondness in thy fame!  
 In the wonders of thy story  
 Shines the sheen of noble deed,  
 Brighter than the glare of battle  
 Where the warriors toil and bleed;  
 Ruling with immortal forces,  
 There is found the king of might,  
 Over all thy great resources  
 By the strength of truth and right.  
 With thy happy sons and daughters,  
 Live the virtues fair and pure,  
 And the better angels guiding  
 Keep their hearts and souls secure.  
 There are treasures in thy valleys,  
 There are treasures in thy hills;  
 Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
 How thy name my bosom thrills!

Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
 Child of law and liberty,  
 Thou art always true and tender,  
 Thou art ever dear to me!  
 I will always praises render  
 To the grandeur of thy worth,  
 For the fortunes all presided  
 At the moment of thy birth.  
 Pleasures in their pure completeness  
 O'er thy pleasant prairies shine,  
 And the raptures run with fleetness  
 Through the happy vales of thine.  
 Thou art empress of the angels,  
 Thou art queen of all the gods,  
 And the happiness of heaven  
 O'er thy laughing valleys nods.  
 I will always crown with praises  
 All thy glories, O, my state;  
 Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
 Thou art greatest of the great!

Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
 Bravest are thy noble sons,  
 In the thunders of the battle,  
 And the roaring of the guns!  
 Flash of sword and musket's rattle  
 Never fearful terror gave  
 To the staunch and valiant bosoms  
 Of thy happy hosts and brave.  
 When the roars of hell grow louder,  
 And the mountains shake in fright,  
 In the lurid clouds of powder,  
 They are foremost in the fight;  
 And when bayonet and musket,  
 Sword and saber, slaughter cease,  
 They are tenderest and truest  
 In the silent ways of peace.  
 O, my state! A stream of greatness  
 From thy mighty people runs;  
 Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
 Bravest are thy noble sons!

Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
 Fairest are thy daughters fair,  
 In the thousand deeds of duty  
 Thou hast given them to bear;  
 Peerless is their wondrous beauty,  
 Bright with blushes as the rose,  
 Pure as petals of the lily,  
 White as newly-fallen snows;  
 And their voices bright with blessing  
 Banish misery and woe,  
 While their fingers' soft caressing  
 Soothes the fevers from the brow.  
 Souls are always blessed with brightness  
 Bosoms filled with goodly pearls,  
 Hearts forever harvest gladness,

In the glances of thy girls.  
They are robed in golden garments,  
Nature's vestments, rich and rare;  
Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
Fairest are thy daughters fair!

Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
Sweetest are thy happy homes,  
Smiling in the holy gladness  
Which above thee always roams;  
They are never linked with sadness,  
They are never bound with pains,  
For the sunshine of enjoyment  
Rules the people of thy plains.  
Songs are singing with thy maidens,  
Music echoes with thy wives,  
Rapture slays the grief that ladens  
All the gladness of their lives.  
Happiness is with thy husbands,  
And thy swains are blest with joy,  
While the fondest rapture rises  
In the hearts of girl and boy.  
Pleasures linger in thy woodlands,  
Gladness on thy prairies roams;  
Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
Sweetest are thy happy homes!

Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
Thou shall ever live in song;  
Freedom, near to nature, raises  
Temples that to thee belong;  
Minstrels shall in merry praises  
Wind their music o'er thy name  
Till the voices of the ages  
Shout for thee in wild acclaim;  
They shall sing with tender pleasure  
Beauty of thy daughters true;  
Sing, in high, exultant measure,  
Deeds thy sons in battle do.  
Sages shall in wisdom offer  
Full rewards of love to thee,  
And shall crown thy land and people  
Favorites of liberty.  
All thy glory shall be shining  
Through the cycles clear and strong;  
Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
Thou shall ever live in song!

Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
Romance of the ages, thou!  
Now, unknown; a moment later.  
Kingly crowns upon thy brow!  
Child of all the nations, greater  
Shall thy splendors year by year  
Grow unfading, bringing bounties  
Full of happiness and cheer!  
Morning saw a desert sleeping,  
Worn and wasted with distress;  
Night beheld an empire keeping  
Watch above the wilderness.  
Progress with her wand of magic  
Touched the sleeping valleys bright,  
And they leaped with instant vigor,  
Shaking out their locks of might;  
Earth shall send her fairest blossoms  
As a garland for thy brow;  
Oklahoma! Oklahoma!  
Romance of the ages thou!

## **THE RACE FOR HOMES.**

**APRIL 22, 1889.**

Behold! As from the shades of night,

An army gathers full of might,  
And strong with constant courage stands  
'Tween civilized and savage lands,  
Where, vast in power, the legion waits  
The turning of the desert gates,  
That men of might may enter in  
And progress all her glories win!  
Lo, where these thousands make assail,  
The barren ages all shall fail,  
And swift advancement far be hurled,  
O'er sleeping empires and the world!

The morning hours haste hurried by;  
Behold! The noon is drawing nigh!  
The anxious host with careful eyes  
Marks well each rapid hour that flies,  
While hope, exulting, wildly rolls  
The highest, such as filled the souls  
Of Jason and his comrades bold,  
Who sought the famous fleece of gold.  
Upon the trampled grasses beat  
Impatient steeds with restless feet;  
The dins of harsh, discordant cries  
Above the thrilling thousands rise;  
Shrilly the scattered children call,  
And soft the words of women fall,  
While men with voices hushed and weak  
Their low commands expectant speak;  
Till suddenly a mighty cry,  
A shout of warning, smites the sky:

[pg 16]

"Attention! Ho,  
Attention here!  
Attention! Lo,  
The noon is near!"  
O'er hill and brake  
Resounds the warning cry;  
The moment great is nigh;  
The hosts awake;  
Awake, to strive with mad delight,  
Awake to win the friendly fight;  
And from the camps anear and far,  
Where nervous haste and hurry are,  
Vast legions gather on the plain,  
While chaos and confusion reign;  
The neighing steed with quickened pace  
Impatient seeks the vantage place;  
The slower ox with lightened load  
Stands waiting in the crowded road.  
And wagon, buggy, carriage, cart,  
Vehicles formed with rudest art,  
All forward, forward, forward dart,  
Swift-forming on the level ground  
Where most advantage may be found.

[pg 17]

"Line up! Ho, there,  
Line up, line up!"  
The hurried order smites the air;  
Above the silent prairies fair  
Unseen progression holds her cup,  
Filled to the brim with magic seeds  
That harvests hold for human needs.  
Excitement grows on beasts and men;  
The saddle girths are tightened o'er,  
The stirrups lengthened out once more,  
And silence softly falls again;  
Each bit and buckle, strap and band,  
Is tested o'er with careful hand,  
And man and beast in chosen place  
Stand ready for the coming race;

The circling sun  
His morning race has fully run;  
A waving hand  
Signals above the brief command



That sight and sense will understand,—  
 And open swings the desert land!  
 A shot! A hundred, thousand more  
 The grassy meadows echo o'er;  
 A shout! From countless throats a shout,  
 On rolling wings leaps madly out;  
 A yell, a raging roar, that flies  
 On bounding winds o'er hill and glen,  
 And 'round the land electrifies  
 A thousand living miles of men!  
     A mammoth stir,  
     A sudden dash,  
     Swift whip and spur  
     Together clash,  
 And wheels on wheels that totter crash!  
     They're off! They're off!  
     Away, away,  
     In mad array!  
     No stop nor stay!  
 The hurried charge they ride to-day  
     Would shame and scoff  
 The Tartar, Turk and Romanoff!  
     The race is on;  
     The host is gone;  
 The thronging legions madly ride  
     O'er hill and dale,  
 With hurried pace unsatisfied.  
     In fierce assail  
     Where none may fail;  
 And only phantoms dimly blent  
 Tell where the mounted armies went,  
 Like shifting shadows, faint and dim,  
 Or ghostly spectors, gaunt and grim,  
 Beyond the far horizon's rim!  
 Behold! Adown the valleys bright,  
 The last, lone straggler fades from sight,  
 And only hasty hoof-beats say  
 What thousands rode the race to-day;  
 What hosts, with hearts that build and bless,  
 Found homes amid the wilderness!

## AT PERRY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1893.

Crowds! Crowds! Crowds!  
 Suddenly here as if come from the clouds  
 That faded away as they came;  
     Mad acres of people aflame  
 With thirst for a morsel of land;  
     Wild hunters of fortune, whose game  
 Is ever escaping the hand;  
     Vast, countless, uncountable throngs  
 With restless, unrestable feet,  
     That hurry the ways, full of agonized wrongs,  
 For the conquest of happiness sweet;  
     Wild seas of ambition whose waves of desire  
 On their obstacles mighty continually beat,  
     Where neither the shore nor the ocean is fixed;  
     Like thunderous songs of a choir,  
 Whose murmurs in music repeat;  
     And confusion and chaos are terribly mingled and mixed.

Dust! Dust! Dust!  
 Borne in the arms of the gathering gust,  
 And whirled on the wings of the wind,  
 The eyes feel the blight of the blind,  
 And horror comes into the heart;  
     For nature is far more unkind  
 Than the thousands that struggle apart.  
     Dark, wild, inescapable dust,  
 In fiercest, untamable clouds,  
     That men into misery helplessly thrust,  
 And bury in agony-shrouds;  
     A simoom of sorrow whose pestilent breath  
 To the strong and the weak, to the young and the old,

Brings despair that is reckless of possible gain,  
And the awfulest anguish of death;  
Till the soul in its rage uncontrolled,  
Droops low in the horrible sickness and sorrow of pain.

But out from the clouds,  
Out from the agonized dust that enshrouds;  
True kings shall arise who shall reign  
In homes on the populous plain!  
Great cities shall gather and grow  
In glories that never shall wane,  
Far over the valleys below.  
With merry yet measureless might  
They conquer the waste with the gladness that brings  
To the desert the newest delight.  
The barren shall bloom as the rose, and the land  
That is sleeping, a wilderness wasted and wild,  
And dreaming to welcome its master's command,  
Shall leap at the touch of his hand,  
His voice shall obey as a child!

## "SING ME A SONG, O, WIND."

Sing me a song, O, Wind,  
Of musical cadence sweet,  
Which in the wood around  
Shall often and oft repeat;  
Soft as an angel's song  
That never can give annoy,  
Which in the balmy notes  
Shall tell me its tales of joy.

Sing me a song, O, Wind,  
Of countries beyond the sea,  
Which in thy wand'rings oft  
Thou pass with a footstep free;  
Lands that are ever green  
'Neath blaze of the tropic spells,  
Bright with their blessed suns,  
Where summer forever dwells.

Sing me a song, O, Wind,  
Of groves with a verdure fair,  
Waving their boughs of green  
O'er solitudes grand and rare;  
Groves with a stillness sweet,  
With cheering and cooling shades,  
Where from its cares the race  
May rest in the leafy glades.

Sing me a song, O, Wind,  
Of birds with a plumage gay,  
That with their carols sweet  
Give praise to the God of day;  
Music of sad refrain,  
Though fond in its tender chime,  
Thou in thy travels wide  
Hast heard in a fairy clime.

Sing me a song, O, Wind,  
Of crystalline brooks at play,  
Which with the murmurs low  
Make sweetest of sounds all day;  
Winding through meadows wide,  
And blossoming fields between,  
Fringed with the willows tall  
On emerald banks of green.

Sing me a song, O, Wind,  
Of flowers that are fond and fair,  
Filling the fields of earth  
With beauty and fragrance rare;  
Wafting an incense pure  
On every breeze that blows,  
Drawn from the lily's heart

And soul of the royal rose.

Sing me a song, O, Wind,  
Of man in his brightest homes;  
Tell if he there meet joy,  
Wherever his longing roams;  
Tell if there's e'er a place  
Where, all his ambition spent,  
He toils throughout all his days  
And knoweth no discontent.

Sing me a song, O, Wind,  
For I am a-weary now;  
Life, with its woes and cares,  
Hangs heavily on my brow;  
Sing me a song of cheer,  
My heart that is sad to ease;  
Sing in thy brightness and joy  
With heavenly harmonies!

[pg 24]

## A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

The brazen bells of laughing lands  
In swelling echoes wildly ring,  
And over seas and hoary strands  
This Christmas carol sing.

"Awaken, O, heart of the race,  
To bountiful riches from Eden above,  
Till roses of beauty and lilies of grace  
Shall sweeten the languishing bosom with love;  
Till virulent sorrow and venomous hate  
Their poisonous curses of misery cease,  
And rapturous fortune, felicitous fate,  
Have rule in the musical meadows of peace.

"The voices of morning to men,  
In passionate whispers of bounteous glee,  
Are pulsing the gladness of Christmas again  
O'er plains of the prairie and sounds of the sea;  
Rejoice and be happy, O, languishing soul,  
In limitless treasures of marvelous cheer,  
Till ravishing murmurs of lullabies roll  
Through all of the sorrows that sadden the year!

[pg 25]

"Though summer has gone from the earth,  
And silken embraces of velvety snow  
Are folding the blossoms of beauty and worth  
In wretched surroundings of wearisome woe;  
Let innocent joys in their sweetness abound  
And silvery cadence in melody start,  
Till rapturous fortunes with pleasure surround  
The aims of the soul and the hopes of the heart.

"Let youth with its yearning engage  
All vigorous passion that lives in the breast,  
While tearful remembrance of tottering age  
Finds halcyon harbors of comforting rest;  
Let silver of years with the ardor of youth  
Be going again through the temple of joy,  
While palms of amusement and laurels of truth  
Encircle the hearts of the maiden and boy.

"Let happiness reign with the race;  
There's never a reason for sorrowful tears,  
Kriss Kringle has come with his fatherly face  
To comfort complaining humanity's fears;  
Let music go 'round and the beautiful smile  
Bring gladsome delight to the bosom of bliss,  
Till gentle enjoyments unbroken beguile  
The souls of the sad with their coveted kiss.

[pg 26]

"Though crystalline frost on the trees,  
Though ice on the river and snow on the plain  
Are freezing the breath of the shivering breeze.

The heart has Nepenthe for all of its pain;  
For Christmas is king, and his bountiful hand  
Is giving its treasures to mountain and lea,  
And gentleness rules on the billowy strand,  
And reigns in the far-away isles of the sea."

This is the carol that swells  
Over the meadows and brakes,  
From brazen throats of the pealing bells  
When Christmas morning wakes.

## **YEARS THAT ARE TO BE.**

Wild years that are to be  
The sad completion of my weary life,  
In ghostly mantles of despairing strife  
Your phantom dimness darkly shadows me!  
Gaunt demons dancing from your horrid halls  
Entwine my soul in gloomy arms of woe,  
While mystic fancies to my madness show  
The monsters on your walls.

[pg 27]

Your forms are skeletons,  
Whose bony hands with mortal fingers play,  
Where grinning skulls are heaping on the way,  
And airy specters meet the timid ones;  
Death drops his arrows from your sullen skies,  
Destruction dances in your noisome shades,  
And in the dreadful darkness of your glades  
The horrid shriekings rise.

There in your cycles are  
Dark valleys where my weary feet must go,  
Though devils of disaster hurl and throw  
Their awful sorrows from the fortunes far;  
No hands of pleasure can presume to part  
The clouded curtains of impending care,  
And hissing serpents of insane despair  
Pour poison in my heart.

O, years that are to be,  
Among your solitudes I, dreaming, grope;  
My life's the shade of unaccomplished hope,  
My heart's a ghoul that feeds on agony!  
No strains of music call my tears away,  
No smiling star illumines the awful night;  
Ambition weeps; my soul draws without light  
My shameless feet astray!

No soothing welcome floats  
Between your marble lips, nor sweetly rise  
The tender songs of gentle melodies  
From croaking caverns of your iron throats;  
But from your dirges of destructive pain,  
Wild clash of wretched sound is borne to me,  
Where death and failure, tears and misery,  
In robes or anguish reign.

[pg 28]

But my heart hopes to find  
Some infant joy for woes that sorrow did,  
Some faded garland on some coffin lid,  
To cheer the wildness of my broken mind;  
Some angel pleasures in your realms must roll,  
Some laughing life, some music, in your glooms,  
Shall gladness give, amid your ghostly tombs,  
Mad Future, to my soul!

## **IF WE DON'T OR IF WE DO.**

If we don't or if we do.  
What's the odds to me and you?  
Fame is e'er a heartless jade,  
And her slaves are poorly paid;  
Weary hearts and soul's distress

Are the prices of success;  
All our stations sadness view,—  
If we don't or if we do.

[pg 29]

If we don't or if we do,  
Our deservings will accrue;  
We must pay the fullest price,  
For each virtue and each vice,  
And each life for every thing  
Must an equal portion bring;  
Justice shall our deeds review,  
If we don't or if we do.

If we don't or if we do,  
Fortune to our worth is true;  
Trophies that enshroud our clay,  
Scarce are worth the price we pay;  
Shame doth small endeavors share,  
Fame and glory, toil and care;  
Earth floats but an equal crew,  
If we don't or if we do.

If we don't or if we do,  
What's the difference 'tween the two,  
When our souls have gone to God  
And we sleep beneath the sod?  
Kindred grasses wave and creep  
Where the prince and pauper sleep;  
We shall have our six-feet-two,  
If we don't or if we do.

If we don't or if we do,  
We but dust and ashes brew;  
Labor, trouble, toil and strife  
Weave within each human life;  
Sorrows cloud the younger years;  
Age is bowed with cares and tears;  
Accidents in fame are few,—  
If we don't or if we do.

[pg 30]

If we don't or if we do.  
Fate to our deserts is true;  
If we fail, or falter not,  
Every life deserves his lot;  
Every human, small or great,  
Buys with current coin his fate;  
What's the odds to me and you,  
If we don't or if we do?

## DEAR SONGS OF MY COUNTRY!

Dear songs of my country! How sweetly thy measures  
Come stealthily stealing o'er mountain and wave,  
To sweeten the riches of liberty's treasures  
And thrill with their numbers the hearts of the brave!  
To move in wild glory the souls of a nation,  
Till men are together so happily hurled,  
That millions are bound in fraternal relation  
And brotherhoods rule in the ranks of the world.

[pg 31]

Such praises ye offer our heroes and sages,  
So grand is the greatness that lives in thy strains,  
That small is the fame of the far away ages,  
So sunken in tyranny, fettered in chains.  
For freedom ye strive and ye struggle for glory,  
And Liberty—Liberty still is your theme—  
And glad are your lips with the national story,  
Which warriors have written on forest and stream.

Dear songs of my country! The soul patriotic  
Ye fill with the wishes of mighty emprise,  
Till conquers he tyranny harsh and despotic,  
Or first in the front of the battle he dies.  
Ye offer him laurels, ye crown him with praises,  
Who falls in the fight with his face to the foe,

And gratitude over his sepulcher raises  
The marbles eternal of national woe.

Your strains are as high as the cloud-covered mountains,  
As deep as the ocean, as wide as the land,  
As pure as the murmurs of silvery fountains,  
But loud as the roar on the billowy strand.  
Our deep-furrowed prairies, our ship-laden rivers,  
Our ax-ringing forests, our steam-shrieking bays,  
Swell high in your music, for all are free givers  
To freedom's true grandeur and liberty's praise.

How fondly, dear songs of my country, ye cherish  
The struggle heroic, the God-shapen deed,  
That nothing of worthiness ever may perish  
But live to the time of humanity's need!  
Afar from the realms of the centuries olden,  
Ye summon with gladness the glories of years,  
To greet every hero with cadences golden,  
And sing every sage that in greatness appears.

The ages may falter thee, Land of my Birth,  
The years may thy grandeur and glory betray;  
But long as thy songs murmur over the earth,  
No forces can carry thy splendors away!  
Then live, ye dear songs of my country, forever,  
With voices eternal to utter her name,  
That cycles may never her liberty sever,  
Nor trample her greatness nor crumble her fame!

## JULY FOURTH.

Hail, glorious morning of Columbia's birth,  
Celestial dawn of freedom! There shall be  
In recognition of thy wondrous worth  
By mighty millions this side of the sea,  
Triumphant crowns of laurel wreathed for thee!  
Welcome thy mammoth pageants, welcome all  
The choral songs and melodies of glee,  
The swelling shouts of praise that gladly fall  
From mighty multitudes in anthems national!

High hangs the sacred banner, and the stars  
Dance in the sunshine, while the breezes play  
Around the glory of the hallowed bars  
Gleaming in white and crimson; music gay  
Floats from the patriot host and cheers array  
Great shouts around its foldings. Long in state,  
Flag of the brave and free, wave o'er this day  
To bring the world rejoicings which await  
The natal hours of might, the day we celebrate!

How fears the tyrant in his capital,  
As myriad wires throb with the nation's tale!  
How despot trembles in his castled hall,  
When liberty's wild shouts of power prevail,  
And give their gladness unto every gale!  
Fetters and chains dissolve in holy trust,  
Scepters and swords in puny weakness fail,  
While crowns and thrones make monumental dust,  
And kingly Might is dead, Oppression downward thrust.

Wide float thy wondrous pæans; loudly range  
Thy songs of holy rapture; and the roars  
Of deep-mouthed cannons echo wild and strange  
Through shouting cities; Patriotism pours  
Her full libations on the trembling shores,  
Till earth reels with her triumph; and the voice  
Of millions mad with merriment far soars  
From sea to ocean with entrancing noise,  
Till nations hear the cry and continents rejoice.

Wave on, thou flag of freedom, and this day  
Still live in hearts of nations! O, thou Land,  
Where Man was first the monarch, where the sway

Of birth exalted first was broken, stand  
To guard the helpless with a mighty hand,  
And give the weak protection; scout the ban  
Which tyrants utter, and with growing band  
Of noble freemen serve thy primal plan,  
And bind all nations in the Brotherhood of Man!

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## "O, GENTLE SHADE OF QUIET WOODS."

O, gentle shade of quiet woods,  
Where nature dwells in leafy halls,  
I love the sacred voice that falls  
In music o'er thy solitudes!  
Within thine arms the weary heart  
Is hidden from the toils of men,  
And pleasure makes ambition start  
Into a nobler life again.

Among the fragrant shadows throng  
With all the riches of their truth,  
Glad echoes from the days of youth  
And mingle into laughing song;  
While angel fingers touch the keys  
That slumber in the silent breast,  
Till mem'ry wakes her lullabies  
And childhood fancies rock to rest.

Again the hours of early joy  
Upon the aged years intrude,  
And dance amid the summer wood  
The golden dreamings of the boy;  
Again the songs of wonder thrill  
The days of life with gladness wild,  
And lofty visions fondly fill  
The longing fancies of the child.

Enchanted choirs of baby years,  
Sweet dirges from the cradle's keys,  
The glories of your harmonies  
Impel my secret soul to tears!  
The roses of my fancies fade  
Into the dust of wicked strife,  
And all the promise boyhood made  
Has proved the desert of my life.

O, fragrant woods of happy times,  
Fair children of the glowing days,  
How sweet the music of your lays  
Is mingled into fairy chimes!  
Ye lisp again the songs of yore,  
The stories of my infant years,  
And throw a sweeter cadence o'er  
My hoary sorrows and my tears!

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## LOVE.

Angelic theme of ancient lays!  
By Doric hills, Athenian vales,  
The nations bound thy brows with bays  
And fanned thy cheeks with scented gales;  
While golden lamps illumed thy shrines  
Beside the Tiber and the Po,  
Till anthems thine were taught to flow  
Along the Alps and Appenines.

The souls of sages and of slaves  
Were faithful servants unto thee,  
Whose rapture soothed the Grecian waves,  
And kissed the islands of the sea;  
And bounding on from strand to strand  
It crossed the coasts and climbed the slopes,  
To place a crown of tender hopes  
Upon the vine-clad Roman land.

Great empress of that early time,  
 Glad ruler of the gentle souls,  
 Each year is changed to raptured rhyme  
 That o'er thy laughing bosom rolls;  
 For cycles as they sink to rest  
 So closely guard thy joy and truth,  
 That fondness and immortal youth  
 Give sweet embraces to thy breast.

Thou goddess of the Paphian shrine,  
 Cytheran queen of Ion's isle,  
 Fair Venus from the land of wine,  
 The races love thy dewy smile;  
 While silent hills and dewy glades  
 Bear praises on each breeze that blows,  
 Sweet as the breath of morning rose  
 That blossoms in the woodland shades!

Then crown, O, Love, these later days  
 With mystic charms of wondrous bliss,  
 That lived when thou wert wreathed with bays,  
 And nations hungered for thy kiss!  
 No more thy temples tower above,  
 But lives and bosoms hold thee dear;  
 Then come with all thy worth of cheer  
 And gentleness, O, mighty Love!

## WINTERS ON THE FARM.

Glad winters on the olden farm!  
 How raptures from those early times  
 Commingle into fairy chimes  
 Which gently banish cries of harm!  
 My fainting soul finds rest the whiles  
 Within the arms of memory,  
 And tender scenes of boyish glee  
 Transform my sorrows into smiles.

How brightly beamed the pleasures then,  
 When frigid fingers came to throw  
 A wintry winding sheet of snow  
 Around the silent homes of men!  
 But happiness found no alarm,  
 For safe with cheer, secure with love,  
 She gladly grew and sweetly throve  
 Through winters on the olden farm.

With merry bells and busy sleighs,  
 That sung and flew o'er icy vales  
 And climbed the hills as fleet as gales,  
 Like singing phantoms died the days;  
 Or then with coat and muffler warm  
 Sweet children glided on the lake,  
 Or chased the rabbit through the brake,  
 In winters on the olden farm.

How glad the joys at eventide  
 When 'round the hearth-stone's pleasant heat  
 The simple song in music sweet  
 From loving voices floated wide!  
 The mellowed apples gave a charm,  
 While pop-corn white and cider bright  
 With worlds of laughter lent delight  
 To winters on the olden farm.

Thrice happy nights and happy days,  
 Sweet isles of pleasure in the past,  
 May long your hallowed moments cast  
 A sacred sunshine o'er my ways!  
 And where life leads me, gladly arm  
 My soul with angel songs of bliss,  
 With true embrace and holy kiss,  
 O, winters on the olden farm!



## "O, WEAK AND WEARY WORLD!"

O weak and weary world  
Forever struggling on,  
When will thy toils in comfort be impearled,  
When will thy sorrows and thy cares be gone?  
When shall the races, all ambition dead,  
Forsake the stony slope and rocky steep,  
And in contentment sweetly wed  
The joys that never sleep?

O, weak and weary world,  
Long hast thou toiled in vain;  
The smoky fumes of woe are darkly curled  
With endless troubles and enduring pain;  
When will thy bosom, faint and helpless grown,  
Rest sweetly in the balmy bowers of ease?  
Avoid the woes that constant groan  
And follow shapes that please?

O, weak and weary world,  
Why search the hills and seas?  
All Nature is in secrecy enfurled  
And thou canst never solve her mysteries;  
Thou canst not understand nor comprehend  
Her varied movements nor the intricate,  
The systems that so far extend,  
Creation wide and great.

O, weak and weary world,  
Why more attempt advance?  
Long have thy forces in confusion whirled  
In circles through the misty maze of chance;  
The nations rise and sink in sepulchres,  
Thy peoples perish in a common grave;  
Progression dies, perfection errs,  
Wrong rules the wood and wave.

O, weak and weary world,  
Let thy ambition rest!  
Long have defeat and gloomy ruin twirled  
In dark embrace the purest and the best;  
Destruction is thy portion, death thy part,  
Ashes thy glory, and thy splendor dust;  
Then ease the longings of thy breast;  
Serve pleasures well; and trust!

### EX ANIMA.

The gloomy hours of silence wake  
Remembrance and her train,  
And phantoms through the fancies chase  
The mem'ries that remain;  
And hidden in the dark embrace  
Of days that now are gone,  
I see a form, a fairy form,  
And fancy hurries on!

I see the old familiar smile,  
I hear the tender tone,  
I greet the softness of the glance  
That cheered me when alone;  
The ruby chains of rich romance  
That bound our bosoms o'er,  
I still can know, I still can feel,  
As they were felt before.

I name the vows, the fresh young vows,  
That we together said;  
What matters it? She can not know;  
She slumbers with the dead!  
Again the fields of fate I sow,  
As she and I have sown;  
I dream again the same old dreams,

But I am left alone!

The twining grasses verdant wreath  
Above her silent grave;  
The rose and violet over all  
Their purest blossoms wave;  
Unbidden from their fountains fall  
The tender tides of tears;  
A sorrow winds among the days,  
And chains the passing years.

My life commingles shine with shade,  
The lily with the rose,  
And in my heart a loathsome weed  
Beside each lily grows;  
Through every thought, through every deed,  
The somber shadows play;  
And I am sad, alone and sad,  
And life is never gay.

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## **"LO, ALL THE AGE IS RANK WITH WRONG."**

Lo, all the age is rank with wrong!  
The nations kneel to monstrous might,  
And horrid cries that haunt the night,  
Have hushed the notes of happy song;  
Mankind the deepest truth has missed,  
The best emotions have grown dim;  
We praise the God that dwelt in Christ,  
But crucify the man in him.

Laws, noble, good, and great at first,  
With plan perverted, bind again  
The regal rights of mind and men  
And prove of tyrants far the worst;  
With blinded eyes is Nature made,  
And knows her constant purpose crossed,  
While crafty Jacob plies his trade  
And Esau finds his blessing lost.

Earth yields her fruits in ample store;  
Her children all are heirs that trace  
Their lineage through the royal race,  
And all her wealth is theirs—and more;  
But one with cunning hand controls  
The portions that his brothers fed,  
While thousands—just and worthy souls—  
In aimless anguish cry for bread!

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No royal blood by caste or creed,  
No pride of place, no gild of gold  
Can warm the weak, accursed with cold,  
Or light the awful nights of need;  
Labor alone can blessings bring  
To crown the brows of freedom's brave;  
The toiler is the truest king,  
The idler is the only slave!

But laugh, O, Labor, dry thy tears!  
A better day is drawing nigh;  
Hope brightens all the somber sky;  
The golden age of Love is near!  
Behold! But yonder stands a Star!  
The ancient lies are downward hurled;  
A man—a child—is greater far  
Than all the wealth of all the world!

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## **"LOVE, THOU GAYEST FANCY-WEAVER."**

Love, thou gayest fancy-weaver,  
Heart-betrayer, soul-deceiver,  
Come with all thy clinging kisses;  
Bringing all thy beaming blisses;  
It may serve the cynic's parts,

If he curse and if he scout thee,  
But, O, where were gentle hearts,  
If they had to live without thee!

Weave the spells of thy beguiling  
'Round and 'round me with thy smiling,  
Till the ashen cheek is beaming,  
And the faded eye is gleaming;  
Millions may endure the fight  
In the battle vain to end thee,  
But when taste they thy delight  
They will serve thee and defend thee.

Bring thy little winsome graces  
And the sweets of glad embraces,  
Till the pleasures all are dancing  
Into mazy whirls entrancing;  
It may please the icy breast  
To despise thee and distress thee,  
But the burning hearts find rest  
When they bless thee and caress thee.

Send thy gladness, laughing rover,  
All my sorrows o'er and over,  
Till the strains of happy pleasure  
Mingle in melodious measure;  
It may give a transient glee  
To condemn thy ways and sever,  
But the sweets of melody  
Thou wilt murmur on forever.

Bind my heart in silken chaining,  
Till from thee is none remaining;  
Clothe my soul in glad completeness  
Of thy happiness and sweetness;  
When the times are true, the soul  
May not hunger for thy gladness,  
But when surging sorrows roll  
Thou alone shall banish sadness.

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## THE FARMER.

Let nations encircle the brows of the brave  
With glory the greatest that glitters below,  
Who make in the blood of the battle a grave  
For all that are found in the ranks of the foe;  
But I from the greatness, the grandeur, and gleam,  
Would turn to the light of clear-glowing hearth,  
And choose from his joy for the soul of my theme  
The farmer, the lord and the king of the earth.

Let millions give worship to riches and wealth,  
That gay in their brilliancy sparkle and gleam,  
And serve with the hands of their happiest health  
The haughty who idle and revel and dream;  
In hall or in hamlet, in cottage or cave,  
Or sickened with sorrow or maddened with mirth,  
There's none I shall serve with the will of a slave  
But the farmer, the lord and the king of the earth.

Let poets in praises heart-swelling and sweet  
With rapture that rises in beautiful song,  
Make sages immortal and ages replete  
With hundreds of heroes who wrestled the wrong;  
All honest men well from the Muses may claim  
The numbers that murmur to merit and worth,  
And so I would fold in the mantles of fame  
The farmer, the lord and the king of the earth.

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Let orators over the deeds of the great  
Re-echo the tributes of tenderest praise,  
And over the ashes that slumber in state  
Let peoples their marbles and monuments raise;  
But I, from the frenzied applauses uncouth,  
To those who are chained in the bondage of birth,

Would flee to surround with the lilies of truth  
The farmer, the lord and the king of the earth.

Let hearts that are grateful in gratitude crown  
The friend of the many and foe of the few;  
Let souls in their secret admiring enthrone  
Whatever a martyr or minion may do;  
But down in my bosom while reasonings reign,  
Of friendship and love there is never a dearth  
For him who is toiling in pleasure or pain,  
The farmer, the lord and the king of the earth.

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## "NATURE HAS A THOUSAND CHOIRS."

Nature has a thousand choirs  
Singing in the sylvan shadows,  
And the music of her lyres  
Echoes in the merry meadows;  
Always glad with golden glee  
Sounds her happy melody,  
Swelling wild in fairy measure  
With the songs of purest pleasure.

Where the dancing fountains play  
Winding warbles shake and shiver,  
And soft carols rise alway  
From the ripples of the river;  
Sweetest voices fondly call  
From the fleecy waterfall,  
And the joyful chimes are creeping  
Where the lovely lake is sleeping.

Raptures echo in the wood,  
Where the pimpernel reposes;  
Gladness fills the solitude  
Where the blushes kiss the roses;  
Sunny beam and somber gloom  
Utter hymns from bowers of bloom,  
Where the vernal winds are crying  
And the vocal birds are flying.

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O'er the smiling scenes of earth  
Nature throws no sullen weather;  
All her soul is full of mirth,  
Song and springtime walk together;  
For the harps of happy days  
Wake the woodlands with their lays,  
And where lilies white are springing  
Gentle melodies are ringing.

O, wild Nature, from thy soul  
Fill the human hearts with gladness,  
Till their lives shall gladly troll  
Songs that banish all their sadness!  
Bathe their breasts with songs of love  
From the Edens found above,  
Till their lips shall sing the story  
Of their happiness and glory!

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## THE WORKINGMAN.

God bless the brawny arms of toil,  
The noble hearts and royal hands,  
That plow the plain and seed the soil,  
And grow the grains of laughing lands!  
King in the blessed vales of life  
Where perfect pleasures first began,  
May blessings come with raptures rife  
To crown the humble workingman!

His kingdoms wave with bannered corn  
And meadows bright with fairy bloom,  
While duties of his heart are born  
Where sylvan shadows hide the gloom;

Sweet Nature fills his heart with health,  
While rustic warbles lead his soul  
Where rill and fountain sing by stealth  
And breezes soft with music roll.

He lives where simple wishes throng,  
And give contentment to his breast,  
While tender lullabies of song  
Bring angel gladness to his rest;  
No praises linger o'er his name  
Where he in silence works apart,  
And honor never links with fame  
The modest glories of his heart.

He needs no kiss of royal crown  
To wield the axe or guide the plow,  
Or woo the smiles of heaven down  
To cling in clusters on his brow;  
But in the sacred shine of love,  
With humble deeds he lives his days,  
And, drinking from the founts above,  
He scatters gladness o'er his ways.

Proud monarch of the tattered vest,  
Thy toil is fraught with greater gains  
Than his that bleeds where warrior crest  
Slays thousands on the battled plains!  
Thy duty prompts to build, to grow,  
The forest fell, the city plan  
And scatter seeds of love below,  
Where'er thou art, O, workingman!

## GIVING AND FORGIVING.

'Tis not by selfish miser's greed  
The great rewards of love are given;  
'Tis not the cynic's haughty creed  
Which gladly makes this world a heaven;  
But tender word and loving deed  
Increase the angel joys of living,  
And mortals gain life's grandest meed  
By acts of giving and forgiving.

Let warriors bold with armies fight  
Their awful battles brave and gory,  
To reap the harvest of their might  
And fill a gaping world with glory!  
The humble heroes, out of sight,  
Where hidden tears and woes are striving,  
Win victories for truth and right  
By deeds of giving and forgiving.

Let mighty kings of loyal lands  
Despise the faithful sons of duty,  
And with the swords of vandal hands  
Destroy the homes of joy and beauty;  
The honest lords of low commands  
Will find a nobler way of thriving,  
In lonely vales where sorrow stands,  
By sweets of giving and forgiving.

Let rich men with their heaps of gold  
Be servants of the shining splendor,  
And crush the bosom, poor and old,  
That lives by mercies pure and tender;  
But still the soul with saints enrolled  
Will keep its charity surviving,  
And have its humble glory told  
In tales of giving and forgiving.

O, helping hands and Christian hearts,  
Twin parents of the race's gladness,  
God speed the time when your sweet arts  
Shall banish every sign of sadness!  
When mournful cries, when pain's wild darts,

Shall cease to curse the days of living,  
And Heaven's love to man imparts  
The joys of giving and forgiving.

## "O, SACRED SOULS THAT GRANDLY SING."

O sacred souls that grandly sing  
The secret songs of human hearts,  
Where your wild music madly starts,  
The sorrows into raptures spring!  
Within the warbles of your chimes  
Man reads the longings of his days,  
And finds, amid your lofty lays,  
Glad music for his gloomy times.

How sweet the mute, melodious cries  
Which only lives like yours may hear,  
Where pleasures thrill the singer's ear  
With laughing strains of lullabies!  
You know soft voices, rich with love,  
That mingle in the fields and woods,  
To bless the silent solitudes  
With carols coming from above.

Your golden harps resound alway,  
Where valley bound with blossom lies,  
And rugged mountains highest rise,  
And silver fountains softly play;  
While in the gladness of your songs  
The fainting bosoms hope again,  
And toil among their fellow men,  
Forgetful of their ancient wrongs.

You sport with singing meadows bright,  
With fragrant winds and scented gales,  
Where shine and shadow kiss the vales  
In fairy fondness of delight;  
For where the meads and forests blend,  
The sweetest songs of life are found,  
And where the lonely hills abound  
The soul of music meets a friend.

Glad hearts that warble songs divine,  
Sweet singers of a mourning race,  
The ages long your brows shall grace  
With crowns where bays and laurels twine!  
For man the grandest garland brings,  
To bless the tender lives that tell,  
And with their mystic music swell,  
The lays that Nature fondly sings!

## CHRISTMAS TIME.

How sweet the brazen belfries chime  
Across the hills and through the dales,  
And o'er the breasts of meadowed vales,  
Beneath the smiles of Christmas time!  
Rough sorrow's thorny fingers grow  
As soft and waxen as a child's,  
And balmy pleasures o'er the wilds  
Chant music to the drifting snow.

Ah, scattered locks that fringe my face,  
With wintry wisps of white and gray!  
Ah, sad, dimmed eyes that look away  
To artless childhood's tender grace!  
To-night those years with joys sublime  
Steal over me and fill my soul  
With lullabies of bliss that roll  
The golden glees of Christmas time.

Again I live in wondrous days,  
When baby hands with chubby glee  
Plucked gladness from the loaded tree

Where loving burdens bent the sprays;  
 The sunny songs of that sweet clime  
   Sing softly in my soul again,  
   Till I forget the ways of men  
 And laugh and shout at Christmas time.

Angelic joys that died in pain,  
   Sweet raptures from the days of bliss,  
   Your loving lips with clinging kiss  
 Thrill all my heart and soul and brain;  
 And turning from my weary rhyme  
   To count my sorrows o'er and o'er,  
   I'd give my life to know once more  
 Those wondrous days of Christmas time.

Ring, laughing bells, ring out to-night!  
   From happy years that now are fled,  
   You bring the faces of the dead,  
 And bless me with a deep delight!  
 Away, away, these thoughts of men,  
   These toils of mine, that sadness give;  
   My heart grows young and I would live  
 My Christmas pleasures o'er again!

## **TRUEST HEROES ARE UNKNOWN.**

All worthies are not sung in song.  
   That live their lives and do their deeds  
   Where wounded nature writhes and bleeds  
 Beneath the savage blows of wrong;  
 From humble duties tender grown,  
 The truest heroes are unknown.

The heart that toils where none may know  
   And uncomplaining conquers care,  
   To save his loved ones or to spare  
 His fellows from the pangs of woe,  
 Is more the hero than who shields  
 His country on the bleeding fields.

He claims no praises for his love,  
   He seeks no tribute for his worth,  
   But sows the desert hearts of earth  
 With blossoms from the vales above;  
 And in their sunshine warm and bright  
 He holds these duties as his right.

Where lives are dark with dismal groans  
   Great men are often chained by fate,  
   And oft are slaves more truly great  
 Than princes on their purple thrones;  
 But servant brows are bound with shame,  
 While monarchs flutter into fame.

Deeds pure and noble, gladly done,  
   Unselfish work for sickly souls  
   When sorrow in black surges rolls  
 And gloomy darkness hides the sun,—  
 These in their truth make more the man  
 Than royal aim or princely plan.

But sometime man shall rule by thought,  
   And worth shall gain her just return,  
   Till all shall every singer spurn  
 Who in the ancient cycles taught  
 That heroes rest in royal graves,  
 But never in the tombs of slaves.

## **IF WE BUT KNEW.**

If we but knew the weary way,  
   The poisoned paths of hostile hate,  
   The roughened roads of fiercest fate,  
 Through which our brother's journey lay,

Would we condemn, as now we do,  
His faults and failures,—if we knew?

Would we forget the shadows grim,  
The lonely hours of grief and pain,  
The follies dead, the pleasures slain,  
The tears and toils that hindered him,  
And only prize the deeds that grew  
To mighty conquest, if we knew?

Would careless hand sow tares of strife,  
Amid the blooms of happy care,  
And plant, in spite of sigh and prayer,  
Wild thorns amid the blameless life,  
Till sorrows rule the nations through,  
With scarce a rival, if we knew?

Would we be quicker with our praise,  
And gladly give the greatest meeds  
As recompense for noble deeds,  
And heroes crown with brightest bays,  
And slay all foes that hearts imbue  
With doubt and weakness, if we knew?

From lofty kings would constant worth  
On peasant brows their crowns bestow,  
And rising from her overthrow  
Eternal justice rule the earth,  
While right would strip the favored few  
To bless the many, if we knew?

If we but knew! Ah, well-a-day!  
From lives that murmur, full of ills,  
Behind the shadows of the hills,  
God hides our brother's heart away;  
And we shall know in vales of rest  
That His eternal ways are best!

## HOPE.

When man from pure perfection fell,  
And bathed his life in grief and woe,  
His angel heart had overthrow  
From all the joys he loved so well,  
And only Hope of all the host  
Remained to comfort him when lost.

And when the other passions throw  
Their phantoms in the arms of death,  
And pour their last remaining breath  
Within the dismal haunts of woe,  
Then Hope alone of all remains  
To soothe our sorrows and our pains.

Hope makes the fearful millions brave,  
The helpless and the weary strong,  
Gives courage to the fainting throng  
And whispers freedom to the slave,  
And unto each, where'er he lives,  
Unceasing cause to struggle gives.

In heavy hours of ghostly gloom  
When raging billows dash and beat  
Around the weak and weary feet  
Which tremble on the yawning tomb,  
The harp of Hope divinely sings  
Exalted songs of better things.

It lifts the gaze of mortal eyes  
Above the desert and the dearth,  
Above the barren fields of earth,  
Unto the promise of the skies,  
And to the last expiring breath  
Gives comfort in the hour of death.

O, sacred light of human life,



Eternal star of Heaven's love,  
Thy brightness ever shines above  
The darkest hours of woe and strife,  
To raise our souls above the sod  
Into the holy home of God!

[pg 66]

## DESPONDENCY.

O, gloomy world that rolls in weary space,  
And moans wild music to the broken spheres,  
Whose rivers wander into seas of tears,  
Despair has bound thee in a close embrace;  
A birth, a life, a death; man is no more!

Death grows beside existence, and with time  
Is comrade of its changes; cycles roll  
Their heavy circles through the human soul,  
And pour their dirges into mournful rhyme;  
A birth, a life, a death; man is no more!

He gropes in shadows for a happy beam  
That shall delight his bosom; into mist  
Dissolves the substance that ambition kissed,  
While greatness grows the garland of a dream;  
A birth, a life, a death; man is no more!

Endeavor struggles to an open grave;  
The past is lost in monumental dust,  
Where age on age in angry ire has thrust  
The wise, the strong, the mighty, and the brave;  
A birth, a life, a death; man is no more!

[pg 67]

The years are shades that totter from their tombs,  
The ages, ghosts that live in catacombs  
And lure the Present to their awful homes,  
Where ancient races wander in the glooms;  
A birth, a life, a death; man is no more!

Oblivion welcomes men with gentle arms,  
And presses them like infants to her breast,  
Repeats to them her lullabies of rest,  
And guards them from all sorrows and alarms;  
A birth, a life, a death; man is no more!

Then hasten, world, and let my battle cease;  
I care not where I stay nor when I go;  
For action gives unhappiness and woe,  
But Lethe brings forgetfulness and peace;  
A birth, a life, a death; man is no more!

[pg 68]

## IF LOVE WERE KING.

If Love were king,  
That sacred Love which knows not selfish pleasure,  
But for its children spends its fondest treasure,  
Sad hearts would sing,  
And all the hosts of misery and wrong  
Forget their anguish in the happy song  
That joy would bring.

If Love were king,  
Gaunt wickedness would hide his loathsome features,  
And virtue would to all the world's sad creatures  
Her treasures fling;  
Till drooping souls would rise above their fate,  
And find sweet flowers for all the desolate  
And sorrowing.

If Love were king,  
Before the scepter of his might should vanish  
Toil's curse and care, and happiness should banish  
Want's awful sting;  
While laughing plenty from sweet hands would throw  
Delightful raptures over all below,  
And gladness bring.

If Love were king,  
 The nations would eternal sunshine borrow,  
 And conquer all the heavy clouds of sorrow  
     And every thing  
 That binds the race in groans and agony;  
 Life's changing seasons would forever be  
     Unvaried spring.

If Love were king!  
 O, broken feet that wander worn and weary  
 Beneath the crags and awful mountains dreary,  
     With rapture cling  
 Your anguished arms about him; drink delight  
 Upon his perfect bosom soft and white  
     And comforting!

## "SING ME THE OLD SONGS, MOTHER."

Our souls are the deserts of sorrow,  
 Our hearts are the ashes of hope,  
 And madly from gladness we borrow  
     The brightness where sadness may grope;  
 My raptures in wretchedness vanish,  
     My bosom is weeping with wrongs;  
 Then sing me the old songs, mother,  
     Then sing me the dear old songs.

My joys are in memory lying,  
     Still ardently happy with youth,  
 When smiles in ambition were dying,  
     And life was the vision of youth;  
 My brow for your gentle caresses  
     And kisses of tenderness longs;  
 Then sing me the old songs, mother,  
     Then sing me the dear old songs.

Sweet murmurs in mystical measures  
     Come soothingly over my soul,  
 Where voices of babyish pleasures  
     And echoes of lullabies roll;  
 The struggles of all my endeavor  
     Are bound in the darkest of thongs;  
 Then sing me the old songs, mother,  
     Then sing me the dear old songs.

I fain would return in my dreaming  
     To years that proclaimed me a boy,  
 When gladness was happily beaming  
     And life was a musical toy;  
 My sorrow has never Nepenthe,  
     My woe in its bitterness throngs;  
 Then sing me the old songs, mother,  
     Then sing me the dear old songs.

## TWO LIVES.

Two infants in their cradles lie,  
     Where lullabies of peace  
 In gentle strains of tender music die.  
     And carols never cease.

Two urchins o'er the meadow lands  
     Are bounding in their plays,  
 Where sweet enjoyment with angelic hands  
     Winds gladness o'er the days.

Two boys, where golden fancies bless,  
     Repose in sunny beams,  
 And muse away the hours of happiness  
     On couches made of dreams.

Two men upon a summer sea  
     Are toiling, brave and strong,  
 Where pleasures roll their elfin harmony

And labor ends in song.

Two gray-haired sages, silvered o'er,  
In life meet once again,  
To name the wondrous happiness they bore  
Among their fellow-men.

[pg 72]

Two graves forever hide the twain  
Who found, in all their years,  
No secret shadows, where unbroken pain  
Held fountains full of tears.

Two lives have passed from human reach,  
And few have heard of them,  
But joy had not been better served if each  
Had worn a diadem.

Ah, bosoms here are strangely blest  
With perfect bliss that glows,  
And he above all others lives the best,  
Who has the fewest woes!

## **"AWAY, AWAY, FROM THE SULTRY WAYS."**

Away, away, from the sultry ways  
Where the pleasures fall and fade,  
To the bannered corn and the meadowed bloom  
And the forest's cooling shade!

Afar, afar, from the rooms of care  
With the toils of life distressed,  
To the grassy hills and the fragrant slopes  
And the quiet vales of rest!

[pg 73]

Away from the weary, dusty town,  
Where the sorrows dim the days,  
To the sleeping lake and the silent stream  
And the wildwood's tangled ways!

To margins wide of the woodland pools,  
Where the wild birds troll their songs,  
Where the lilies laugh and the willows wave,  
And the pleasures dance in throngs!

The dark-eyed nymphs and the fairy elves  
In their robes of laughing smiles,  
In the forests romp 'neath the leafy trees,  
Through the narrow long-drawn aisles.

The bannered corn and the golden wheat  
In the ties of bliss are bound;  
The sweetest joys and highest hopes  
On the shady farms are found.

The raptures reign in the holy scenes,  
And the old grow young once more,  
To roam the meadows and live again  
In the happy years of yore.

Then haste, O, haste, to the country downs,  
Where the valleys are sweet with joys,  
And the soul grows young, and the heart is light,  
And the bosom is like a boy's!

[pg 74]

## **SPINSTERHOOD.**

Alone, alone, in the twilight gray,  
In the shadows so dark and dim,  
I watch through all of the weary hours,  
And I wait with my heart for him;  
For him who'll come, when he comes at all,  
As my king and warrior bold;  
Whose form so tall is my fortress wall  
And whose heart is a chunk of gold.

Again, again, do I dream the dreams,  
All the dreams that my young heart knew,  
And through my soul do the yearnings thrill  
As of old they were wont to do;  
I know in truth when his face I see,  
I shall fall at his shining feet,  
Where'er it be and whoever is he,  
In the light of his glances sweet.

[pg 75]  
I wait in vain for the sounds that rise  
From the tread of his horse's hoof,  
And still the mists hide his form away  
And forever he stays aloof;  
His shining face and his eyes so bright  
In the shades of the distance hide,  
And out of the night with the stars bedight  
He hath never approached my side!

O, years, O, wonderful tide of years,  
From the shadows of time set free  
My king, my lover, my life, and bring  
To my heart what is most of me!  
Somewhere in pain do his yearnings grope  
For the joys that my love would bring;  
O, up the slope of his life-long hope,  
Guide the feet of my royal king!

## "SWEET FAIRIES FROM THE ISLES OF SONG."

[pg 76]  
Sweet fairies from the isles of song,  
Bewitching choirs from music land,  
The pleasures of your wondrous band  
Once wooed me from the ways of wrong;  
Once won my heart with fond caress  
To sacred vales of summer glees,  
Till carols fraught with lullabies  
Filled all my soul with blessedness!

My yearnings miss those gentle sprites,  
Whose laughing lips and angel eyes  
And voices ever winsome-wise,  
Bedewed my dreams with new delights;  
For in the sad hours of my pain  
I hold them as I hold the dead,  
And trust that in the vales they tread,  
My hands shall clasp their hands again.

From those glad meadows where they play  
'Neath lovely sun and gentle star,  
My longing soul has wandered far  
On rocky path and thorny way;  
I croon again the notes of song  
In strains they taught me years ago,  
And weep because my sorrows know  
They have been absent for so long.

Return, O, laughing sprites of rest,  
From gentle isles and peaceful seas,  
And pour the balsamed wine of ease  
Upon the anguish of my breast!  
Till gladness in her raptures roll  
Sweet strains of music, and I gain  
Eternal joy for all the pain  
That darkens o'er my weary soul!

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## STANZAS.

God bless the man who gave us rest  
And him who taught us play,  
For kindness reigned within his breast  
To all our sorrow slay;  
The weary heart, the fainting limb,  
The soul that droops in woe,  
Should most unceasing praise on him

In gratitude bestow.

He is the hero of the race,  
The toiling nation's friend,  
For pity smiles upon his face  
With joys that never end;  
He tears away the iron gyves  
That chain our best repose,  
And makes the deserts of our lives  
To blossom as the rose.

He pours his balms into the wound  
Of bosom weak and sad,  
Till holy pleasures flit around  
And all the heart is glad;  
Till all is sweet that here before  
Was wrapped in bitter woe,  
And only gladness hurries o'er  
The millions here below.

Great man he is, and him I give  
That gratitude of mine,  
Which must in brilliance while I live  
With brightest glory shine,  
To wreath a radiance always gay  
Around the worthy breast  
Of him who first discovered play  
And gave the nations rest.

## **MAKE THE MOST OF THIS LIFE.**

Make the most of this life; where the shadow reposes  
The beams of the summer shall gather in glee,  
And the snow on the graves of the lilies and roses  
But cradles the blooms that shall whiten the lea;  
Though the hopes of the heart be encircled with sorrow  
And billows of wretchedness mutter and roll,  
There shall come with the morn of the bountiful morrow  
The pleasures that gladden the desolate soul.

Make the most of this life; where the carols are sleeping  
That rose in their rapture from lips of the spring,  
That awakened the world from its winter of weeping,  
Sweet songs shall be sung by the birds on the wing.  
Though the bosom be dark with the dirges of sadness  
And solitudes gather so heavy and lone,  
There shall float from the musical meadows of gladness  
The ravishing measures that banish each groan.

Make the most of this life; 'tis a garden of beauty,  
Where, blushing, the blossoms grow tenderly-sweet,  
While they brighten the years of man's labor and duty  
And scatter the kisses of love at his feet;  
'Tis a world that is wild with the laughter of living  
When hands do the brotherly kindness they can,  
And its hearts are the treasures of tenderness giving  
To soften and sweeten the nature of man.

Make the most of this life; there is happiness in it,  
When souls find a theme for their jubilant song;  
There is music, when angels are taught to begin it,  
Which never was marred with a murmur of wrong;  
There are voices that sing in their sweetness forever,  
And mutter no strains of contention or strife,  
Neither burden the hours with the pangs of endeavor,  
When we, with our deeds, make the most of this life.

## **"THE SONGS THAT MOTHER USED TO SING."**

The songs that mother used to sing!  
How tenderly those ditties roll,  
And to the dirges in my soul  
The happy notes of gladness bring!  
Where'er my vagrant feet may roam

From pleasures of my childhood's home,  
This life of mine with rapture throngs,  
When thinking of my mother's songs.

They were not made of magic lays;  
No perfect melodies were found,  
That with the strains of fairy sound  
Would charm the stranger's ear to praise;  
But I can never hope to meet  
Another music half so sweet,  
And all my longing love will cling  
To songs that mother used to sing.

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With gentleness of crooning cries,  
She freed the aching limbs from pain,  
And lulled the eyes to sleep again  
With sweetness of her lullabies.  
Love mingled with her tender voice  
In tones that made the heart rejoice,  
And Heaven's music seemed to ring  
In songs that mother used to sing.

Though years have passed, they still impart  
Glad warbles to the hours of woe,  
And their mute carols fondly throw  
The sacred raptures o'er my heart;  
Until my locks are thin and gray  
Deep in my soul will sound alway,  
And full of joy will ever spring  
The songs that mother used to sing.

## **"QUAFF THE GLASS, THE WINE IS RED."**

Quaff the glass, the wine is red,  
And the rose of youth is glowing,  
While the toils of life are fled  
And the snows of age are going;  
Quaff it with a hearty will,  
Quaff it deep and quaff forever;  
Wine will every sorrow kill,  
And destroy the pleasures never.

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When the heart beats sad and low,  
Drink its gladness like a river;  
When the soul is weak with woe,  
Quaff and be a cheerful liver;  
Never, never, life, despair,  
While a cup of hope is nigh thee;  
Bend not under loads of care  
While the fount of joy is by thee!

If the fickle friendships end  
And thy fortune be a sad one,  
Claim, O, claim, as truest friend,  
Ruby wine, the sweet and glad one!  
If thy love hath proven cold,  
Leave her, leave her, for the new one;  
Wine is never false for gold;  
Friend to friend, a tried and true one!

Let the cynics curse and rave;  
This must be a life of pleasure;  
Fill a bumper! He's the knave  
Who would scorn joy's fullest measure;  
Quaff the glass, the wine is red;  
Hour by hour the days are going;  
Wine is yet the fountain head  
From which pleasure's tide is flowing

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## **GOOD-NIGHT.**

Good night, my little love, good-night!  
May angels keep  
With fondest watch thy slumbers, till the light

Shall break thy sleep,  
And morning with its wonders bright  
Shall banish all thy cares with might.

Within this quickened life of mine,  
I bear away  
The loving looks and tender words of thine,  
Which from this day  
Within my soul shall ever shine  
And make me better, more divine.

With love and trust and truth, my heart  
Beats all for thee;  
And though our lives may wander far apart,  
Till death's decree  
Shall pierce my hopes with deadly dart,  
Thou still my star of guidance art.

Good-night, dear one! As gladdest songs,  
The sweetest dreams  
Fill all my happy soul in joyous throngs,  
And tender themes  
Bring bliss for which my nature longs,  
And slay the curse of ancient wrongs.

Good-night, my little love! In care  
Of Heaven rest,  
And may thy life no deeper sorrow share  
Than love's behest,  
Beneath the smiles of raptures rare!  
Good-night! God keep thee everywhere!

## **LIVE LIFE WITH LOVE.**

There is no soul of anguish or repining,  
That doubts and trembles in the shades of gloom,  
But love can lead where softest suns are shining  
And fill his days with beauty and its bloom.  
Live life with love!

There is no bosom dark with lonely caring,  
That sadly sorrows in the nights of woe,  
But love can soothe his torture and despairing,  
And scatter gladness where his feet may go.  
Live life with love!

There is no scene of misery or sorrow  
That droops and withers in the dark of night,  
But love can bring fond yearnings for the morrow  
And heap the heart with hope's unfading light.  
Live life with love!

There is in all the world no sinful creature  
That gropes and falters on his troubled way,  
But love can overcome his erring nature,  
And change his darkness to eternal day.  
Live life with love!

Sweet love, with bounties that her hands are giving,  
Can blossom roses on the desert heath,  
Can brighten all the longings of the living  
And with fond kisses warm the lips of death.  
Live life with love!

As love is thine, so shall thy days be sweeter  
With all the deeds that shall thy fellows bless;  
Thy small achievements nobler and completer  
With truth and hope and highest happiness!  
Live life with love!

## **DISCONTENT.**

The sun comes up in the east  
And the sun goes down in the west,  
And man to me is a heartless beast

And the world has only a savage breast.

How thoughts rush over my soul  
As the waves walk over the sea!  
Their forms flee soon and the sorrows roll  
In the deep distress that is over me.

How hopes arise in my heart,  
As the roses bloom over the plain!  
But time is tearing their sweets apart  
And they die in darkness and awful pain.

Ambitions burn in my breast,  
As the fires in a city rage;  
But damp creeps over their fervid zest  
And they sink away into ashen age.

If there was pleasure for pain  
I could well be happy awhile,  
And, O, my bosom would ne'er complain,  
If my fortune gave me a single smile.

But here I am, and the curse is on,  
And my life is a waste of woe,  
And ere one river of tears is gone,  
O, another torrent begins to flow.

Ah, the sun comes up in the east  
And the sun goes down in the west.  
And man to me is a heartless beast  
And the world has only a savage breast!

## STANZAS.

Put not trust nor tenderness to sleep,  
In sorrow sad;  
The heart, in which a little love may creep,  
Is not all bad.

The darkest hours that wear a wondrous gloom,  
Are somewhat light,  
If but one ray of brilliancy illumine  
The brooding night.

The field in which the weed and bramble thrive  
Has some of good,  
If but a single blossom struggling live  
Amid the rude.

The ocean vast is not all desolate,  
The worlds between,  
If on its waters bearing human freight  
One sail is seen.

All is not harsh and cold amid the wood,  
If warbled song  
Resound, how feebly, through the solitude  
Of tangled wrong.

The desert, barren, bleak, a waste of sand  
Does never spread,  
If spear of grass in verdure green expand  
Above the dead.

Then put not trust nor tenderness to sleep  
In sorrow sad;  
The heart in which a little love may creep  
Is not all bad.

## THE WAY OF THE WORLD.

Since Adam's first sin in the garden of song,  
Where the hopes of the race were empearled,  
Whenever a mortal does anything wrong,  
It is only the way of the world!



If statesmen forget all the pledges they made,  
And the people to evils are hurled,—  
Excuse their misdeeds! 'Tis a trick of the trade,  
And is only the way of the world!

If bankers, confusing distinctions of wealth,  
Have your gold to their own pockets whirled,  
And then gone to Europe for pleasure and health—  
It is only the way of the world.

If preachers, forgetting the Master of old  
And the banner of light He unfurled,  
Elope with the fairest ewe-lambs of the fold,—  
It is only the way of the world.

If merchants, unscrupulous, cheat with a will  
While their lips are at honesty curled,—  
Harsh blame, hie away! And your censure, be still!  
It is only the way of the world!

The way of the world! What a happy excuse  
For the faults and the follies unfurled!  
Bind virtue securely! The vices turn loose!  
'Tis the way—'tis the way—of the world!

## MY SHADOW AND I.

A something, not of earth or sky,  
Beside me walks the ways I go,  
And I—I never truly know,  
If I am it or it is I.

It soothes me with its tender speech,  
It guides me with its gentle hand,  
But I—I can not understand  
The links that bind us each to each.

I hear the songs of golden days  
Fall softly on the saddened years,  
But know not whose the hungry ears  
First feasted on the roundelays.

I feel the hopes, the yearnings brave,  
Within my bosom surge and roll,  
But know not whose the Master Soul  
That called their glories from the grave.

I see the great world's greater curse,  
Dark struggles on through darker days,  
But know not whose the eyes that gaze  
Through all the sobbing universe.

O, Shadow mine! Beneath my brow  
I feel thy thoughts, and in my heart  
Thy fondest longings madly start!  
Thou art myself and I am thou!

## IN THE VALES.

When from these vales I go,  
That slumber on in dreams,  
O, will the summer winds dance to and fro,  
And kiss the streams  
That play where roses scatter fond perfume  
And lilies burst with bloom?

Glad children of the spring,  
They moan their music sweet  
Where tangled grasses wave, and softly sing  
Where meadows meet,  
And wildwood shadows drooping bless  
The groves with happiness.

Their soothing songs I hear  
Among the granite hills,

Above the elfin warbles rich and clear  
From rippling rills,  
As if they called my soul in future days  
To wander all their ways.

Ah, moaning winds, you seem  
To fill my musing breast  
With lullabies that linger as I dream  
And bring me rest;  
For melodies from your low voices creep  
That soothe my heart with sleep!

## THE WILLOW.

A song for the willow, the wild weeping willow,  
That murmurs a dirge to the rapturous days,  
And moans when the kiss of the breeze laden billow  
Entangles and dangles among the sad sprays!  
A musical ditty to scatter the sadness,  
A warble of wildness to banish its tears,  
Till tremulous measures of bountiful gladness  
Be sounding and bounding through all of the years.

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The beautiful brooks, as they waken from slumbers,  
Pause under the shadows that fall from the boughs,  
And weave their caresses in passionate numbers,  
While soothing and smoothing the frowns from its brows;  
But chained in the desolate sorrows of weeping  
Its heart never warms to the raptures of mirth,  
And over its bosom no pleasures are creeping  
While wending and blending their joys with the earth.

Then sing for the willow, the wild weeping willow,  
That droops in the smiles of the summer-born times,  
And mourns in the kiss of the sweet-scented billow,  
When beaming and gleaming are dripping with chimes!  
While melodies move where their happiness lingers,  
They surely will gladden the tear-laden sprays,  
And music that flutters from fairy-like fingers  
Will lighten and brighten the burdensome days.

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## AT THE MILL.

The water-wheel goes 'round and 'round  
With heavy sighs of mournful sound,  
While dismal cries and weary moans  
Unite with sad and tearful groans,  
And weeping waves of water throw  
Afar the echoes of their sadness,  
And cadences of plaintive woe  
Dispel each little note of gladness.

My daily life goes 'round and 'round,  
And rest for me is never found;  
The sobbing dirges of distress  
Are more than songs of happiness;  
The shadows of despairing doom  
Condemn to-day and curse to-morrow,  
And muffled terrors fill the gloom  
Which offers anguish to my sorrow.

But hope, O, heart, for future weal!  
The waters rest beyond the wheel;  
So life may sing when toil is done  
And all its battles lost or won.  
There lives a sweeter music there,  
Of gentle and melodious measure,  
Where weeping never comes and where  
The ages perish into pleasure.

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## SHADOW AND SHINE.

They will find in this life who are grieved with its gladness

No songs for the heart and no hopes for the soul,  
But will faint in the glooms where the dirges of sadness  
In tremulous murmurs of wretchedness roll;  
For the sweets of this earth never lavish their kisses  
Where lives in the valleys of rapture repine;  
In the tortures they mourn who denounce all the blisses,—  
They weep in the shadow that rail at the shine.

In the fields that are fair with the blooms of the clover,  
No garlands are grown for the arbors of shade  
Where the woes of the wood in their darkness hang over  
The grasses that wave with the winds of the glade;  
From the chimes of the breezes there echo no measures  
That gladden the gale with a music divine;  
In the troubles they languish who shrink from the pleasures,  
They weep in the shadow that rail at the shine.

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Ah, the world is abounding with wonderful glories  
And wild are the warbles that sweeten its ways  
While the songs of the land sing their beautiful stories,  
And scatter their melodies over the days!  
There are smiles, there are joys, never mingled with sorrow,  
O, man, in return for the tears that are thine,  
And the soul never sobs that has hopes for the morrow,  
Nor weeps in the shadow nor rails at the shine!

## THE GROWTH OF SONG.

A tender song in shadows grew,  
And humble hearts were homes it knew.

But through its wondrous music stole  
The longings of the human soul;

The hopes of hosts unsatisfied  
Within its numbers wandered wide;

And strangely wet with toilsome tears  
It held the yearnings of the years;

Till millions with their woes oppressed,  
Proclaimed the song of peace and rest;

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Till nations in their troubled ways  
Found comfort in the joyous lays,

And all the halting race of wrong  
Exalts the loving might of song!

Ah, song that soothes our many cries  
With fondness of thy lullabies,

We love, we bless, we scepter thee  
Proud empress of the hearts that be!

## SPRING AND MUSIC.

Spring, among her sylvan shades,  
And the gladness of her glades,  
Once in dreamy hours was straying,  
Where sweet Music with her throngs  
Of glad melodies and songs  
In the happy vales was playing.

Pan beheld the fairy maids  
As they gamboled in the shades,  
And he swore they should not sever.  
But that o'er the blooming land,  
Heart to heart and hand in hand,  
They should wander on forever.

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Thus when come the gentle days  
O'er the wildwood's tangled ways,  
There is found no gloomy weather;  
For among the leafy bowers

And the valleys bright with flowers  
Spring and Music walk together!

## COMPENSATION.

The softest beams of the stars are born in the farthest skies,  
And fairest rays of the sun where evening shadows rise;  
The sweetest songs of the bird are sung in the darkest days,  
And rarest blooms of the spring are found in the wildest ways.

The brightest blush of the rose is blown as the petals fade.  
The greenest grass of the earth is grown in the hidden glade;  
The fondest rhyme of the rill is heard in the secret vale,  
And lightest lays of the breeze are borne from the dying gale.

[pg 99]

The highest hopes of the heart in saddest of sorrows grow,  
The purest pleasures of joy arise in the wane of woe;  
The gladdest smiles of the lips are seen in the hours of pain,  
And proudest days of the free are spent by the broken chain.

The grandest deeds of the race are writ on the faded scroll,  
The truest rivers of good from villainous fountains roll;  
The perfect raptures of life are reared in the arms of care,  
And Hope with her joys dispels the darkness of our despair.

[pg 100]

## MY MOLLIE, O!

'Twas in the summer's sweet perfume,  
When roses bloomed and holly, O,  
That in the brightness of her bloom,  
I first did meet my Mollie, O.

Although she said for lives to love  
Was nothing but pure folly, O,  
My heart was lit with light above,  
And I true loved my Mollie, O.

O, swift and fast the days did flee  
And seemed most bright and jolly, O,  
For evermore was near to me  
My fair and lovely Mollie, O.

Now I doth sit through all the day  
And nurse my melancholy, O,  
For from me she has turned away,  
O, false and fickle Mollie, O!

[pg 101]

## SING NOT OF BEAUTY.

Sing not of beauty's grace to me;  
Its very name a story tells  
Of doubly dark inconstancy,  
Love falser than a hundred hells.

Its face is often but a screen  
To hide a devil's heart of guile,  
Of thoughts and deeds of shameful mien,  
By winning looks of heartless wile.

Its laughing smile is but the gleam  
That springs from dross of foulest make;  
It stirs a sweet but idle dream,  
Then leaves the trusting heart to break.

Sing not of beauty's grace to me;  
I can not bear to hear the name;  
For, oh! Too oft in it I see  
A soul of falsehood and of shame!

[pg 102]

## AT EVENTIDE.

At eventide, when glories lie  
In crimson curtains hung on high,

And all the breast of heaven glows  
With mingled wreaths of flowers and snows,  
The dearest dreams of life draw nigh.

The pleasures in their soft robes fly  
With angel wings adown the sky,  
And rapture lulls to sweet repose,  
At eventide.

Ah, well-a-day! Life's weary cry,  
And all its curse and care shall die,  
When Age on downy couches throws  
His weary limbs and only knows  
The tender dreams of bye-and-bye,  
At eventide!

[pg 103]

## **WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES.**

When Christmas comes, what pleasures spring  
From drooping hearts on happy wing,  
Like joyous birds that soaring rise  
From hidden coverts to the skies.  
And echo in the chimes that ring!

Glad millions in wild rapture sing  
Hosannaed hopes of welcoming,  
While praises blend in harmonies,  
When Christmas comes.

Ah, happy hours! Around them cling  
The dearest joys that life may bring,  
And all the world's despairing cries  
Are soothed to sleep with lullabies  
That banish every bitter thing,  
When Christmas comes!

[pg 104]

## **WHEN THOU ART NEAR.**

When thou art near, with gladdest grace  
My heart is held in fond embrace,  
For laughing lips with raptures bless  
The toils and tears of my distress,  
And woes within me have no place.

The halting hours with hurried pace  
Whirl wildly on through happy space,  
And life is light with happiness,  
When thou art near.

Like mortals whom an angel race  
Renews with gladness face to face,  
I thrill with Love's unseen caress  
That holy hands upon me press,  
And Heaven's pleasures all I trace,  
When thou art near.

[pg 105]

## **HE SLEEPS AT LAST.**

He sleeps at last! The vales of rest  
Are waiting for the war-worn breast,  
And glorious angels fondly spread  
The sweetest roses for his bed.  
While countless millions call him blest.

Fame welcomes him with glad behest,  
While garlands on his brow are pressed,  
And laurels cluster o'er his head;  
He sleeps at last.

O, deep the sorrows here confessed,  
Where Freedom makes eternal quest!  
The wondrous chief that proudly led  
The long, blue lines that fought and bled,  
In peace is now no more distressed;

He sleeps at last!

[pg 106]

## WHEN FORTUNES FROWN.

When fortunes frown, the woes, bedight  
With brooding shadows, bring the night,  
While dismal sorrows darkness dole,  
And disappointments rise and roll  
Above the longings for the light.

Despair, with hands that curse and blight,  
Sows weakness in the hearts of might  
Until they falter near the goal,  
When fortunes frown.

But onward still! The valleys white  
With Heaven's blossoms are in sight;  
The Holy Mountains, knoll on knoll,  
Are waiting for the Master Soul,  
And he shall conquer for the right,  
When fortunes frown!

[pg 107]

## WHEN WE SHALL MEET.

When we shall meet, I strangely know  
The mad emotions that shall flow  
Across my heart all quivering,  
Beneath the raptures he shall bring  
From angel years that gladdened so.

And I all shy and silent grow  
Beneath his glance of gladness, though  
Wild yearnings through my bosom spring,  
When we shall meet.

Till joyful tears of passion show,  
And to his kind embrace I throw  
My heart unworthy, and I cling  
With deathless fondness to the king  
I worshipped in the Long Ago,  
When we shall meet!

[pg 108]

## SWEET EYES OF BLUE.

Sweet eyes of blue! The stars by night,  
That swoon the world with laughing light,  
And touch the hills with tender glow  
While all the vales are kissed below,  
Beside you would no more be bright.

My worlds ye are, and while I throw  
My heart to catch the beams that flow  
From your fair shrine, my woes take flight,  
Sweet eyes of blue!

Glad orbs of beauty! In your sight  
My soul mounts up with secret might,  
Till Eden's lovely bowers I know;  
And as through Heaven's gates I go,  
The pleasures all my sorrow smite,  
Sweet eyes of blue!

[pg 109]

## HAD WE NOT MET.

Had we not met, the brooding woe  
And all the griefs that greater grow,  
Might not have been, and happy-wise  
Our lives have laughed with lullabies  
And quaffed such joys as few may know.

Our days beneath embittered skies  
Where anguish moans and sorrow cries,  
Might not have wept and wandered so,

Had we not met!

But ah, my darling! All we prize,—  
Love and sweet trust that never dies,  
Wild yearnings that with constant flow  
From kindred heart to bosom go,—  
Would never in our souls had rise,  
Had we not met!

[pg 110]

## A SONNET.

We gentler grow by sorrow; not the breast  
That never crouches in the nights of tears,  
That never bends beneath the loads of years,  
Has sympathies that are the kindest.  
There is a strength in agony that best  
Can link the careless heart with human fears,  
And teach it that fond kindness which endears  
The millions that with sadness are oppressed.

Grief softens while it saddens; pleasure smites  
The timid soul with harshness, till it knows  
Small earnest of the great world's grievous woes  
And little of its struggles; sorrow plights  
Her troth with sorrow, and in tears unites  
Man unto man and hatred overthrows.

[pg 111]

## OKLAHOMA,—A SONNET.

Here, through the ages old, the desert slept  
In solitudes unbroken, save when passed  
The bison herds, and savage hunters swept  
In thund'ring chaos down the valleys vast;  
But, lo! Across the barren margins stepped  
Advancement with her legions, and one blast  
From her imperial trumpet filled the last  
Lone covert where affrighted wildness crept.

Full armed, full armored, at her wondrous birth,  
Her shining temples wreathed with gorgeous dower,  
She sits among the empires of the earth;  
Her proud achievements o'er the nations tower,  
Won by her people with their royal worth,  
With lofty culture, wisdom, wealth and power.

[pg 112]

## ESTRANGED.

Though far apart, my darling, side by side  
We wander still and our fond yearnings meet,  
As when our hearts with highest raptures beat  
Before our footsteps trod the paths of pride;  
Our close companionship hath never died;  
True love and trust are always fair and sweet,  
And time from life's best hopes can never hide  
A kindred soul that made its own complete!  
So thou, dear one, shall come once more to me,  
The sweeter grown for all thy years of pain;  
My longing arms shall open wide for thee,  
And thou shalt nestle on my breast again;  
Then perfect love shall richly crown the years,  
And both be better for our griefs and tears.

[pg 113]

## RECONCILED.

We meet again beyond the barren past,  
Beyond the pride, the sorrows and the tears;  
And yearnings leave the strife and hate of years  
To flood our souls with perfect peace at last!  
Our hearts forget the wrong so deep and vast,  
The wounding words and all the cruel woe,  
Till joy is all our bounding bosoms know,  
And life is glad with happiness at last.

Love, deathless and forgiving, crowns with bays  
The future and our hopes, as full of grace,  
As youth had fondly dreamed in other days,  
When first we knew how sweet was her embrace.  
God's endless purpose guides the feet of men;  
Beyond our pride we meet in love again!

[pg 114]

## **THE DYING HERO.**

His greatness hath not left him; till the years  
Have won the nation from her children dead,  
And robbed her of remembrance where she rears  
Her monuments above the blood they shed,  
Will his name want for homage; with sad fears  
The Union winds her garlands o'er his head,  
And fondly wreathes her love, bedewed with tears,  
To bless the hero on his dying bed.

His luster lives untarnished; as he lies  
Where Malady has bound him in wild pain,  
And only Death can loose the heavy chain  
That galls her captive while his nature dies,  
He seems far greater in his country's eyes,  
Than if an Appomattox spake again.

[pg 115]

## **SONNET.**

Somehow, somehow, I can not see the light;  
The giant hills of doubting reach the skies,  
Abiding shadows bring eternal night,  
And on my ways no suns of morning rise;  
Dark mysteries across the years of might  
Crush down my hopes, until each yearning dies,  
Until my soul is weary, dim my sight,  
And ghostly echoes mock my fainting cries.

Ah, I shall know beyond these narrow years,  
The glorious mornings of eternal day,  
Where perfect love and tender trust shall play,  
And smiles and laughter banish all the tears,  
And all the heavy mists of doubts and fears  
Shall leave my longing soul somehow, somehow!

[pg 116]

## **GREATNESS LIVES APART.**

Great natures live apart; the mountain gray  
May call no comrade to his lonely side;  
The giant ocean, wrapped in storm and spray,  
Has no companion for her endless tide;  
The forest monarch, where his parents died,  
Can find no brother in his lofty sway,  
And mighty rivers chafe their margins wide  
Where infant rills and childish fountains play.

So heroes live; no raptured blossoms start  
Where rugged heights of human glory end;  
No tender songs of loving beauty blend  
Their chorus in the great man's peerless heart;  
Fate fills their souls with magnitude, and art  
Supplies their lives with no congenial friend.

[pg 117]

## **POEMS.**

Poems are holy things. Eternal Truth,  
Borrowing the robes of song and lovely grown,  
In them her glory unto man proclaims  
And fills his longing soul. They softly speak  
Of Nature's beauty and the secrets old  
Concealed behind the shadows of the hills,  
And love on angel fingers borne to men,  
Naming them over in so sweet a voice  
That music leads their footsteps in the ways  
Where God has walked; and with a lofty Harp,



As wondrous as the gentle harps of heaven,  
Uplifts, ennobles, soothes and leads the race  
Unto its last great ultimate of power,  
To words of tenderness and goodly deeds.

[pg 118]

## SINGER AND SONG.

A singer sang in sorrow long  
And breathed his life into his song.

Unknown, unheard, the song went wide,  
Until the singer, starving, died.

Now in their hearts the nations write  
And wear the singer's song of might.

Ah, singers fail and fall from view,  
But songs are always, always new!

If garlands none to singers cling,  
Bays wreath above the songs they sing.

[pg 119]

## TO ONE WHO PLEDGED HER FRIENDSHIP.

Within this false world we may count ourselves blest,  
If we have but one friend who is faithful and true;  
And so in your friendship contented I'll rest,  
And believe I have found that one blessing in you.

## THE BANKS O' TURKEY RUN.

Like a thousan' birds o' brightness from the isles o' summer seas,  
Rickollections, full o' gladness, come with songs and lullabies,  
An' I listen to the carols that with gentle voices roll,  
Full o' tenderness an' beauty, down upon my weary soul,  
Fer thar's one that keeps a-singin' with a song thet's never done,  
An' I see the bendin' willers on the banks o' Turkey Run.

[pg 120]

An' agin' I be a youngster with a youngster's foolin' dreams,  
With his high-falutin' notions an' his fiddle-faddle schemes;  
With the laughin' an' the cryin', with the sorrow an' the joy,  
Thet is jumbled up together in the bosom o' the boy;  
An' agin my arly fancies in a fairy loom are spun  
Underneath the dancin' shadders on the banks o' Turkey Run.

An' agin I be a school-boy with the other merry lads,  
When Joe an' Jerry, Bill an' I, wus only little tads,  
When a half a dozen marvels an' a kivered ball was worth—  
With a knife o' Barlow pattern—all the treasures o' the earth;  
An' the soundin' sort o' thunder from a poppin' kind o' gun  
Set our faces all a-giggle on the banks o' Turkey Run.

It 'ud tickle any feller but ter see the solemn look,  
When the master was a-watchin', thet we fastened on the book,  
But the mischief stickin' in us, like pertaters in a sack,  
It wus never hard ter empty when the teacher turned his back;  
O, the paper wads we tumbled thet 'ud weigh about a ton,  
In thet crazy-cornered school-house on the banks o' Turkey Run!

[pg 121]

How we used ter chase the robins an' the rabbits in the wood,  
How we gethered bloomin' posies in the sighin' solitude!  
How we wondered all the medders in our roamin's o'er an' o'er,  
How we teetered in the branches o' the beech an' sycamore!  
Or we watched the rompin' minners as they rassed in their fun,  
While we nearly bust a-laughin', on the banks o' Turkey Run!

How we used ter go a-fishin' when the day wus gittin' late,  
With a little line o' cotton an' a fish-worm fer a bait!  
With a bent pin for a fish-hook an' a hazel fer a pole,  
How we sought the softest places by the widest, deepest hole!  
How we teehee-eed at the nibbles, caught the fishes one by one,  
With the biggest kind o' prowess, on the banks o' Turkey Run!

[pg 122]

When the sun was burnin' shavin's in the heatin' stove o' June,

An' the clock upon the mantle wus a-knockin' off the noon  
When the beams in bunches blistered as they never did afore,  
An' the sweat was drippin', droppin', from the mouth o' every pore,  
How we skipped across the medder, how our swimmin' wus begun,  
In the cool an' crystal waters 'tween the banks o' Turkey Run!

O, the smilin' days o' childhood! O, the loudly laughin' years!  
When contentment brings the moments neither heaviness ner tears!  
When the pleasures jine the longin's an' the fairy fingers roll  
All the heaps o' angel music in upon the blazin' soul!  
O, my Joe an' Bill an' Jerry! Trustin' comrades, you wus won  
Whar my bare feet brushed the grasses on the banks o' Turkey Run!

[pg 123]

But, alas! Thar wus another; she was fairer than the rest,  
An' she allus had a hearin' fer the wishes o' my breast;  
Allus wus a chunk o' sunshine an' a piece o' quiet glee,  
Allus had a smile o' welcome an' a tender word fer me;  
An' without her wus no shinin' an' o' happiness wus none  
Ter bring gladness ter my bosom on the banks o' Turkey Run.

O, her home wus in a cottage whar the mornin'-glories hung,  
An' the arly birds o' April with their sweetest music sung;  
Thar wus roses 'round her winder, thar wus roses 'round her door,  
Thet wus stickin' full o' blushes, but they allus blushed the more,  
When her eyes wus seen a-peepin' an' her cheeks beamed like the sun,  
From thet cosy little cottage on the banks o' Turkey Run!

Many an' many a time we wandered in the grassy medder-land  
With our wishes right together an' our longin's hand in hand;  
How we dreamed about the future when the world should give me fame,  
An' when she would be thrice noble to be worthy o' my name!  
Thus we talked an' thus we fancied; others might my boyhood shun,  
But I found her kind, my sweetheart, on the banks o' Turkey Run.

[pg 124]

But the times have been a-changin' sence them arly years o' joy,  
When she wus but a little girl an' I a little boy;  
When Joe an' Jerry, Bill an' I, together wus at play,  
With our hearts as light as feathers, every minute of the day,  
An' at twilight sunk ter slumber tell the mornin' wus begun,  
In the gloomy silent forests on the banks o' Turkey Run.

Bill an' Joe have gone a-rovin' on a fortune-huntin' quest  
Through the silver mines an' Injuns in the mountains o' the west;  
But the janders came ter Jerry with a solemn sort o' call  
Tell they painted him as yaller as a punkin in the fall;  
An' to-day I saw his tombstone as it glittered in the sun,  
Over in the little churchyard, on the banks o' Turkey Run!

[pg 125]

An' alas, my precious sweetheart! Like a lily virgin white,  
Did she slowly fade an' wither tell her spirit took its flight!  
Like an angel into heaven did she sweetly, calmly creep,  
An' her lovely life wus over an' her bosom went ter sleep;  
An' the tollin', tollin' church-bells dropt the dirges one by one,  
As we laid her 'neath the wilier on the banks o' Turkey Run.

Thar a little cross o' marble marks the sacred, silent shade,  
Whar the fair an' laughin' beauty o' my ole sweetheart wus laid;  
An' the summer has a sadness thet is cryin' through the years,  
An' my heart is full o' sorrow, an' mine eyes is full o' tears,  
Fer I've allus had a failin', sence her friendship first I won,  
Fer thet little lovin' maiden on the banks o' Turkey Run!

[pg 126]

But them days have past forever in the years o' long ago,  
An' a wishin' ter be wealthy has enraptured Bill an' Joe;  
Death has taken Jerry; only I, o' all the boys,  
Am' remainin' ter remember all them arly angel joys;  
But to-night I see their faces as they peep in full o' fun,  
An' agin we're boys together, on the banks o' Turkey Run!

[pg 127]

## ***ENVOY.***

*Oh, to be able to capture and bring  
And bind in the bonds of control,  
Some of the carols that warble and sing  
Down in the depths of my soul.*

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