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# WILD POPPIES

BY  
GRACE HIBBARD



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BUFFALO  
CHARLES WELLS MOULTON

1893

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1893

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*DEDICATION.*

*TO the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, and more especially to California Commandery, this book is respectfully dedicated.*





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WILD POPPIES.



## THE SPIRIT OF THE SPRING.

WE made our home in the wilderness,  
The wilderness of billowy grass,  
That rose and fell at the tide of winds,  
But lay at noontide a sea of glass.

I was an artist, who sought to catch  
The sunset's glory on prairie wide;  
A picture to paint was my fond hope,  
For the Salon—and she was my bride.

Before our cabin a cottonwood grew,  
Whose heart-shaped leaves, like humming-  
bird's wing,  
Fluttered, and quivered, on slender stems,  
And in its shadow a bubbling spring.

Summer had passed like a spirit by,  
The cottonwood's leaves were sere and gray,  
And the corn-stalks stood like sentinels,  
Summer's outposts, that sad autumn day.

But alas! the sunset I had sought  
To capture on canvas, for the Salon,  
Still burned in the sky, and in my brain,  
And the radiant summer was gone.

*Wild Poppies.*

The noon was hot, and breathless, and still,  
The white clouds rose like mountains high,  
Peak above peak, grim giants at war,  
In the far away, blue, western sky.

I mounted my horse, that sultry noon,  
Not heeding her voice who bade me stay  
Nor the mute appeal of her white arms,  
Held out to me as I rode away.

I rode, and rode, for many a mile,  
My sombrero down over my eyes,  
And smoked cigarettes, and cursed my fate,  
'Till a tint of gray crept o'er the sky.

Was my brain maddened, or did I hear  
The whisper of demon from below?  
"There'll be no red in the sunset to-night;  
Paint thou the prairie fire's red glow."

The air was breathless, and still and hot,  
The billowy grass a motionless sea,  
No breeze was coming from east or west;  
I threw my cigarette far from me.

A torch of fire my cigarette;  
The dry grass changed to fluttering wings  
Of scarlet and gold, then serpents crawled  
In sinuous paths, like living things.



Wild with delight at the deed I had done,  
I'd not taken thought; was mine the blame  
That like a demon out of the west  
On wings of blackness, the wild winds came?

I thought of Pharaoh's struggling hosts,  
As frantic I crossed the fiery sea,  
To rescue her, far dearer than life,  
And some way a path was made for me.

For she was alone, my darling one;  
In the fire's path my cabin stood;  
I saw, like shower of falling stars,  
The blood-red leaves of the cottonwood.

Before our ruined cabin I stood,  
Wild with despair; 'neath the leafless tree,  
Calling my darling's name o'er and o'er,  
Begging my darling to come back to me.

Up out from the spring my darling came,  
A look of ecstasy on her face:  
My picture, "The Spirit of the Spring,"  
In the Paris Salon, had a place.

## DREAMING.

IDLy sitting by my window, fair dreams dreaming—  
Dreaming snowy clouds are castles seeming,  
Built on gray rocks in the sky sea lying,  
Stormed by golden sunbeam arrows flying.

Idly sitting by my window, fair dreams dreaming—  
Dreaming snowy clouds are white waves gleaming,  
On the tropic blue of sky sea dashing,  
In the brightness of the sunset flashing.

Idly sitting by my window, fair dreams dreaming—  
Dreaming white clouds are cherub faces beaming,  
With bright, fleecy hair around them streaming.  
In the twilight idly sit I dreaming.

Idly sitting by my window, fair dreams dreaming—  
Castles proud, white waves, cherub faces beaming,  
Turned to empty air, like all earth's dreaming;  
But above me, lo! the stars are gleaming.

BELLS OF VENICE.

SILENCE o'er city fair,  
Not a breeze sighing,  
Silence in palace old,  
At the day's dying.

Gold in the sunset sky,  
And on sea lying,  
Long lines of golden light,  
Like arrows flying.

Boats on the paths of blue,  
Blue skies o'er bending,  
Silence at sunset's hour,  
At the day's ending.

When lo! the many bells,  
From each church tower,  
Ring out in melody,  
At sunset's hour.

Silence unbroken save  
For sweet bells ringing,  
As through the sunset's gate  
Day's flight is winging.

## BLUEBELLS.

THE unseen fingers of the air  
Set all the bluebells ringing.  
My thoughts like birds that homeward fly,  
Across the sea went winging.

To "banks and braes" where bluebells grow,  
'Neath trees where birds are singing,  
Their home and mine—did others hear  
The bonnie bluebells ringing?

## MY FATHER'S SWORD.

CLOSE sheathed in its scabbard on the wall,  
Hangs, draped with faded, crimson, silken  
sash,

My father's sword. No longer sabres flash,  
Nor cannon flame and blaze from fortress tall.  
Sweet peace, like snowy dove, for many years,  
Has hovered o'er our land, a spirit fair;  
But in a single night my mother's hair

Was changed to white; my face baptized by tears.  
For in the sunny south one springtime day,  
A soldier fell, his sword clasped in his hand.  
The wild birds sang as blithe as e'er before,  
And apple blossoms crowned the joyous May.  
Upon a home in the far northern land,  
A shadow fell, that lifted nevermore.

UNDER THE PINES.

**B**EFORE the grate in the firelight,  
On the night when the year grows old,  
Watching the smoke curl phantom-like,  
And the coals turn to living gold,

I sit and dream as I listen  
To sweet clamor of New Year's chimes,  
And whisper low the vows I made  
In the moonlight, under the pines.

I have left the dazzling ball-room;  
Decked in jewels that brightly gleam,  
In my dress of pearl-white satin,  
I have come to my room to dream,

I have left music and dancing,  
The soft, perfumed, tropical air,  
The eyes and the voices that told me;  
“The Rose of the Mountains, is fair.”

Once more I am Mabel; daughter  
Of “Old Ben” of the “Blue Bird Claim;”  
I hear my boy lover asking:  
“Wild Rose, will you love me the same

When you go with your father’s sister  
To the city so far away?  
Will my “Blue Bird” of the mountains  
Come back to the home nest, some day?”

Upon our sure-footed ponies,  
Up the zigzag cañon wild,  
We had wandered to gather flowers,  
In the twilight of springtime mild.

The giant peaks in the gloaming  
Seemed touching the shining stars;  
The moonlight upon the pine trees  
Turned their branches to golden bars.

I answered, with hand uplifted,  
“Just as long as the North Star shines,  
I will keep the vows I made you  
In the moonlight, under the pines.

So I've left the dazzling ball-room,  
Decked in jewels that brightly gleam,  
In my dress of pearl-white satin,  
I have come to my room to dream.

I kneel in the glowing firelight,  
As I listen to New Year's chimes,  
And whisper low the vows I made,  
In the moonlight, under the pines.

THE OLD SLAVE'S LAMENT.

**T**HAR was singin', thar was dancin'  
In de little cabins, long ago;  
An' cotton growin' in de fields  
As white as northern snow.  
In Massa's house lights twinkled,  
And de young folks danced—ho! ho!  
Reckon de likes ob dose good times  
Pore ole Pete will neber know.

'Spec de birds do all de singin',  
An' de sunshine all de dancin' on de floor:  
An' de lights go twinkle, twinkle,  
In Massa's house no more.

Ole Pete is sometimes hungry,  
 But he'll let the chilluns know,  
 Thar was singin', thar was dancin'  
 In de cabins long ago.

### FISHING.

THE moonlight cold and still  
 In net-like golden bars,  
 Lies on the waters blue  
 To catch reflected stars.

### ALL SOULS' EVE.

I AM all alone in my room to-night;  
 It is "All Souls' Eve" when they say the dead  
 For a single night can walk the earth  
 And then go back to their lone church-yard bed.

Outside of the house the autumn winds blow;  
 (Do I hear the sound of the garden gate?)  
 I have decked the room with flowers they loved,  
 And placed a warm mat before the bright grate,



Down memory's pathway they come to me;  
My soldier father, and close by his side,  
My golden-haired mother, who left her child,  
When the cruel word came that he had died.

With only Carlo, my St. Bernard friend,  
I was left alone in the cold, world wide;  
My dog was sent to the holy monks  
To save men lost on the bleak mountain's side.

I knelt sad before the crucifix white,  
And cried; "O Mother, I am all alone!  
There is no one to love me; let me go  
To-night with you to your heavenly home."

I heard the sound of the garden gate, and  
"Bernadine, Bernadine listen to me,  
I, Victor, swear true by the holy dead,  
Of all the wide world I love but thee."

## APPLE BLOSSOMS.

SHE gave him an apple blossom  
One day in the sweet springtime,  
She did not know its meaning,  
That it whispered "My heart is thine."

But someway her love had wandered  
Away from one stern and cold,  
As dainty, pink-white blossoms  
Drift away from apple trees old.

And he read the old sweet story  
In glance of her blue eyes meek,  
And pink of apple blossoms  
As it flitted across her cheek.

THE SOLDIER'S SON.

Read at a banquet of California Comandery, Loyal Legion, by Col. W.  
R. Smedberg, Recorder.

IN the sunset's glory they stand  
Together, the heroes in blue;  
The slanting sunbeams rest on their arms,  
And the mystic river's in view.

To the other side their comrades  
Have crossed at the word of command,  
And brighter far than earth's laurel wreaths  
Are the crowns of that martyr band.

There is one who died long ago,  
Who for freedom his young life gave;  
Each springtime by loving hands are placed  
Fair flowers on that soldier's grave.

In a shadowed home, on the wall,  
Hangs the sword he wielded so well;  
His gold-barred shoulder-straps are kept  
That he wore on the day he fell.

To-night his son at your hands, craves  
The cross to be placed on his breast,  
The badge that his father's valor won,  
The soldier long gone to his rest.

## UP FROM THE SEA.

WRAPPED in the cold, silver mist so white,  
Up from the sea come the silent dead;  
Through streets of the city with noiseless tread,  
They wander together—'tis All Souls' Night.  
One looks in the window, where long ago  
Beloved at the hearthstone she had a place,  
And she gazes long at a manly face.  
“I love you, my husband,” she murmurs low.  
Men shuddering hurry along the street;  
They shiver at touch of the cold white mist,  
And they long for the morning's warm sunlight;  
They know not 'tis spirit they love they meet,  
They feel a horror they cannot resist,  
Forgetting, alas! it is All Souls' Night.

“NIGHT’S CANDLES ARE BURNED OUT.”

LAST night when stars were lighted one by one,  
Eyes blue as summer skies,  
And bright like stars that shine—  
Dear dying eyes—  
Looked into mine.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Night’s candles are burned out;” the day is here;  
The radiant blue eyes  
So bright, like stars that shone—  
See fairer skies;  
I am alone.

MY PLAYMATE.

“I WILL come on a coal black horse,  
I will come in ten years, Fay,  
When the apple blossoms are pink and white,  
In the merrie month of May.”

'Twas my little playmate who spoke.  
I was eight years old that day.  
We stood in the orchard under the trees;  
He was soon going away.

Far away from the sea-swept coast,  
Far beyond mountains and plains,  
To where rivers rolled over sands of gold,  
And mountains had golden veins.

He said: "To the sunset I'll ride;  
I shall never lose my way;  
Remember and watch when the apple trees bloom,  
In the merrie month of May.

When my playmate left me for school,  
From his small blouse, blue and white,  
He brushed away just a few boyish tears,  
Then he vanished from my sight.

\* \* \* \* \*

In front of our cabin I stand,  
My home on the mountain-side,  
In one hand are blossoms of wild plum trees  
From the cañon, deep and wide.

With my other hand I now shade  
My eyes from the eastern sun,  
And look for a rider on a black horse,  
I'm sure my playmate will come.

LOVE'S IMMORTALITY.

I N far-off classic land,  
Blazing torch in her hand,  
On a high tower,  
Stood Hero, young and fair,  
With halo of bright hair,  
At the midnight hour.

Out on the inky night  
Fluttered the red torchlight,  
To guide her lover;  
Flaring in the keen blast,  
Then lost, like star o'er cast,  
Held high above her.

Not half a year ago  
In vestal robes, like snow,  
To sound of lyres,  
Upon the altar bright  
On Venus' festal night,  
She fed the fires.

Child of a noble Greek,  
With face of virgin meek,  
Eyes of heaven's blue;  
Mid clouds of incense rare,  
She stood, a priestess fair,  
To the Goddess true.

Love made her vows as naught,  
Sweet lesson she was taught  
    In one short hour.  
Dark eyes of Thracian youth  
Told her the wonderous truth  
    Of love's grand power.

Banished to island lone  
To castle ivy grown,  
    Alone they left her.  
Love can bridge waters wide,  
So, soon to Hero's side  
    Came young Leander.

Swimming the Helespont  
Nightly became his wont  
    To Hero's tower.  
First by the full-moon's light,  
Making a pathway bright  
    At moon-rise hour.

But came a stormy night  
With lightnings flashing bright  
    And sad winds wailing.  
Moonless and starless sky,  
Black clouds o'er gray sky fly;  
    Pirate ships sailing.



Love can make darkness light;  
Out on the stormy night  
    Hero's torch flashes.  
Leander sees the gleam  
And in the angry stream  
    Heedlessly dashes.

Pitiless breakers roar  
Louder than e'er before  
    Seem to the swimmer.  
Darker the gray sky grows,  
Wilder the storm wind blows;  
    Hero's light dimmer.

She from her tower prays  
Goddess of her young days  
    To save her lover.  
Brighter the lightnings flash,  
Louder the breakers dash;  
    No stars above her.

Down on the rocks below,  
Mid breakers white as snow,  
    There he lies dying.  
Down to his side she leaps,  
Torch in her hand she keeps;  
    Meteor flying.

Long line of golden light,  
 Lighting fair Hero's flight,  
     Through death's dark portal.  
 Such love that does not shrink,  
 Even from death's dread brink,  
     Must be immortal.

### HOW SHALL JEANNE D'ARC BE PAINTED?

**A**S child shall she be painted, watching her father's  
     flock's,

Wandering among the lambs, the gentlest there;  
 Green summer fields, wild-flowers, a few tall trees,  
 A crown of golden buttercups upon her hair?

Or shall Jeanne be painted as a warrior in armor  
     Leading to battle soldiers, though but maiden  
     fair;

Riding on plunging war-horse, a lone guiding star,  
 Helmet in place of buttercups upon her hair?

Or in the market-place of Rouen shall he paint her,  
     Bound to a stake, with cruel chains, her life work  
     done;

Faggots and tiny wings of fire about her  
     Crowned with a halo by the golden setting sun?

No. Let the artist paint her as she listens—  
Listens to whisperings from the far heavens blue;  
Voices unheard save by the Maid of Orleans,  
Telling Jeanne d'Arc the mighty work she has to do.

“JE TE REJOINS.”

Suggested by the suicide of an aged French florist, upon the grave of his wife.

“ I CANNOT live without thee,”  
I Were the words I whispered to thee, dear one,  
In our bright sunny France, long years ago,  
When we were young, and thou wert fair to me.  
Sweetheart, I loved thee so,  
And now, “I go to thee.”

“I cannot live without thee.”  
Bright flowers I have laid upon thy grave  
For many and many a dreary day.  
Without thee life has no more charm for me;  
Bereft I cannot stay,  
And so “I go to thee.”

“I cannot live without thee.”  
The key of death I hold within my hand;  
Alone beside thy grave in church-yard drear,  
God pity, pardon if I use the key;  
Earth vanishes away;  
And thus, “I go to thee.”

## AN APRIL SNOW-FLAKE.

THE apple blossoms held pink-white cups  
To catch the April shower;  
When from the sky came floating down  
A tiny crystal flower.  
It was only a little snow-flake white,  
But the sun peeped out from behind a cloud  
And it turned to a jewel bright;  
In another moment the jewel bright  
Was changed to a tear in the flower cup white.

## THE OLD WAR HORSE.

OH! never again to march at the head of a col-  
umn;  
Only to graze in the field at the edge of woods solemn  
  
Only to drink at the moss-covered trough in the  
meadow;  
Only to stand in the sunshine and then in the shadow.

Aye! once more to march at the head of a warlike  
column,  
Leading veterans and soldiers marching to music  
solemn.

Soldiers marching to decorate graves, carrying flowers,  
Passed fields where "Old Joe" roamed alone through  
long summer hours.

Back turned the ears of the war horse at martial  
strains sounding,  
Forward his ears, a step, then into the dusty road  
bounding,

Pawing the air, and then wheeling, and leading the  
column,  
Tears starting to eyes and hats raised at a sight so  
solemn.

Tears to the memory of their Colonel, young, loved  
and brave;  
Whom "Old Joe" bore long ago to battle, and to  
his grave.

## HOPE.

**O**UT on the sea, out on the sea in a storm;  
 Lightning flashing and cutting like swords the  
                   inky black sky;  
 Down in the trough of the sea, then lifted by waves  
                   mountains high,  
 Rides a ship, alone in the tempest; destruction is nigh.  
 "Down with the anchor," the Captain's cry.

Like a tired bird, a bird with its wings at rest,  
 Swinging at anchor on watery waste, 'neath bright-  
                   'ning sky,  
 The stately ship rides; like flags of gold on the three  
                   masts high  
 Sunbeams gaily flutter; winds whisper, "The haven  
                   is nigh."  
 "Anchored steadfast and sure," the glad cry.

Out on the sea, on the troubled sea of life;  
 Lightning flashing and cutting like swords the inky  
                   black sky;  
 Down in the depths of woe, lashed by the cruel waves  
                   so high,  
 Drifting along, gladness so far away, despair so nigh;  
 "Hope the soul's anchor," our Captain's cry.

WILD ROSES.

TO-night before the bright foot-lights,  
Decked with jewels that flash and gleam,  
In robe of velvet and ermine,  
I played the part of a queen.

Far upward my voice soared bird-like,  
'Till it seemed to reach the blue sky,  
Then changed to notes, low and plaintive,  
Like the soft summer's wind low sigh.

Before me were beautiful women,  
The courtly, the stately, the grand;  
There were men of wealth and fashion  
Who had begged me for my hand.

At my feet fell fairest of flowers  
That perfumed the tropical air,  
In one was hidden a jewel  
That shone in the gaslight's bright glare.

Some one tossed a few wild roses,  
But little the dazzling crowd guessed  
Why I left the others unnoticed  
And fondly clasped them to my breast.

Again I was poor little Inez,  
The fisherman's child by the sea;  
The cluster of wild pink roses  
Brought a moonlight picture to me.

The round moon upon the waters  
Made a pathway of golden light,  
Across it a ship was sailing—  
I was watching it out of sight.

In that brave ship my boy lover  
Sailed away out into the night;  
I held in my hand wild roses,  
As I watched it vanish from sight.

To-night, not knowing, not dreaming,  
I sang to one, just home from sea;  
'Twas the hand of my boy lover  
Tossed the sweet wild roses to me.



SNOW ON THE PLAINS.

LAST night across the glory of the sky, purple  
clouds lay;  
The gray-brown, arid plains wandered away and met  
the sunset bright.  
Like rusted blades the lush grass rustled in the  
balmy air.  
The sage-brush in the gloaming seemed like timid  
deer in flight,  
Or Indians, with feathers twined in their long float-  
ing hair.  
Thus through the sunset's golden gates, went out  
the autumn day.  
Lo! in the night, the miracle of snow was wrought  
anew.  
The gray-brown, arid plains were changed to marble  
pavements white;  
Each rusty, rustling blade-like frosted fretted silver  
shone;  
Each bush was turned to sculptured Indian, or deer in  
flight.  
Autumn had vanished, and cold, ice-crown winter  
reigned alone;  
And over all was spread a canopy of deepest blue.

## AWAY FROM HOME.

BEAUTIFUL butterfly brown and white,  
 With spots of black and gold,  
 Why are you here in the city's street;  
 The city so sombre and old?

“The roses red and the roses white  
 That climb on the granite wall,  
 To my clover field a message sent,  
 And I came at their loving call.”

## POEM.

Read at a banquet of California Commandery, Loyal Legion, on the occasion of their twenty-first anniversary. At Mare Island Navy Yard, May 3d, 1892.

SING comrades, sing of peace  
 Glad songs to-night;  
 Banished be grim war's face,  
 Far from our sight.

Forget the cannon's roar,  
 The sabre's flash,  
 The flag low in the dust,  
 The rifle's crash.

Forget the weary march,  
The bugle call;  
Forget the empty sleeve,  
The prison wall.

Drink to the dear old flag,  
The stripes and stars;  
Drink to the veterans brave,  
Covered with scars.

In silence, with bowed heads,  
Drink to the dead  
Left on the battle field  
When all had fled.

Drink to a land at peace  
From shore to shore,  
Heart to heart, hand to hand,  
Forevermore.

## FOUND.

I WATCH the tender leaves, this April day unfolding,  
And look upon the shadows flitting o'er the lawn,  
And I see children's faces, bright and winning—  
The faces of my darlings, long, long gone.

The first I see is Baby in his dimpled sweetness,  
Blue eyes, white face and little rings of curling hair;  
I hold my hands out to embrace him fondly—  
Alas! they only meet the empty air.

Again I feel a chubby hand mine tightly holding,  
And guide two wee feet trying hard to cross the floor,  
To see dear faithful Carlo soundly sleeping,  
In the warm sunshine just outside the door.

In sailor suit and hat, with many happy children,  
I see my schoolboy coming down the village street;  
His hair wind-tossed, his glowing cheeks like roses—  
Again my schoolboy I shall never greet.

Away, away with all my sweetly tender dreaming;  
I hear a bounding step upon the oaken stair;  
I look into the blue eyes bending o'er me—  
My baby, toddler, schoolboy, all are there.

THE CRYSTAL BELLS OF SANTA HELENA.

I N a garden upon a cliff  
High above the fair southern seas,  
Hang crystal bells, with silver tongues,  
On branches of olive trees.

In the sunlight down on the beach,  
Play the tiny rippling waves,  
And breakers dash against the rocks,  
And thunder in ocean caves.

But the winds are asleep the while,  
And the crystal bells idly hang,  
As if out on the southern sea  
They never in melody rang.

When lo! from the bright golden west,  
Where the sky and the waters meet,  
Came a breeze from a tropic land,  
And the bells rang out clear and sweet.

So many a heart that was mute  
Like the bells on the olive trees,  
At the voice of love rings out clear  
As the bells at the southern breeze.

## ANCESTOR MINE.

**H**E hangs upon the wall ancestor mine;  
 No powdered wig, nor queue with ribbon tied.  
 No ruffled shirt, nor shoes with buckles wide,  
 No dangling sword, he wears, or feathers fine.  
 No knighted hero he of wars long past;  
 He sits in tiny elbow chair of old,  
 A little boy with hair of shining gold:  
 In dimpled hand a crimson whip holds fast,  
 A suit of mauve, with frills of dainty lace,  
 Bright scarlet shoes, a brooch of jewels rare;  
 His sweet young self looks out of ancient frame  
 With eyes of deepest blue—a soulful face;  
 A gentle mouth, yet firm, and face most fair;  
 My great-great-grandfather, the wee one's name.

## THE ASTRONOMER'S WIFE.

**I** WANT to thread the golden stars,  
 A necklace bright to wear.  
 I want a diadem of stars,  
 To rest upon my hair.

I want a dress from cobwebs spun,  
Flecked o'er with tiny stars.  
I'd be a constellation new,  
Quite near to fiery Mars.

My hair, like flying meteor,  
Should float out into space;  
The moon, like fan from far Japan,  
I'd hold before my face.

Then he I love, who now forgets,  
Would gaze on me each night;  
He'd sweep the sky with telescope,  
Of me to catch a sight.

And there I would contented lie  
Up in the sky of blue,  
Discovered first by him I love,  
A constellation new.

He then would think of me alway;  
Would give me his dear name;  
I'd bring to my astronomer,  
Oh, joy! renown and fame.

## THE PAGAN GIRL'S PRAYER TO THE SUN.

(B. C. 500)

O SUN, thou God who for ages my people  
 Have worshiped, low in the sky, o'er the sea  
 There thou hangest, a red ball of fire,  
 Tarry, oh tarry, and listen, I pray thee.

Thou who lightest up dark places with sunbeams,  
 Thou who paintest the flowers and rainbows,  
 Thou who fillest with sunlight o'erflowing  
 The cup of the lotus, list to my sorrows.

O bright sun, thou hast left me; thou hast fallen  
 Down into the waves. Thy blood stains the sky  
 In the west, and lies red on the waters.  
 Thou heardst not my sorrow, nor answered my cry.

## A VIGNETTE.

LIKE Italian portrait by master's hand  
 Or clear cut cameo, a face  
 That in my beautiful, ideal world,  
 In my castle has a place.



WAITING FOR COLIN.

I AM growing old, my hair  
Once so golden, is now white like snow,  
And I live in the far away past,  
The beautiful long ago.

Oft-times I stand at the door  
Of the farm-house, my earliest home;  
The sun is sinking behind the hills;  
I wait for Colin to come.

Again I am little May,  
When I stand on the doorsteps so high,  
The hollyhocks, covered with crimson flowers,  
Are half a head taller than I.

The wind the red clover sweeps,  
And the tinkling of bells I can hear,  
The cows down the hillsides are coming now;  
I know that Colin is near.

\* \* \* \* \*

He was true to me 'till death.  
Now he dwells in the world of light.  
I have been lonely for many years,  
But Colin seems near me to-night.

I wait for Colin always.

He will come when the sunset is bright;  
Again I'll be his "own little May,"  
And golden my hair, not white.

### UNDER THE ORANGE TREES.

THEY stood at the evening hour  
'Neath orange blooms sweet and white,  
Beside a tropic sea,  
In the sunset's golden light.

He gave her orange blossoms,  
Oh! mockery in the thought;  
She was bound by iron fetters;  
Their sweetness counted for naught.

The snowy, waxen blossoms,  
Nestling fondly side by side,  
Should rest on other tresses,  
She could never be his bride.

THE OLD "HARTFORD."

SAILING out on the waters blue  
Of the San Francisco bay,  
Under the flag they fought to save,  
On their anniversary day,

The heroes passed the old "Hartford,"  
Stripped of her warlike signs,  
And to those loyal hearts there came  
Memories of olden times.

There was one among the number  
Brushed away a starting tear,  
As he thought of Fort St. Philip  
And the fate that then seemed near.

From the ancient ship at anchor  
Sailors waved the Union Jack,  
Fastened well to unused ramrod;  
Then for answer went floating back,

On the breeze the Nation's Anthem,  
Sweeping o'er the waters blue,  
In honor of the old "Hartford,"  
From the veterans, tried and true.

## SHADOW LAND.

I INTO shadow land I wandered,  
Led by twilight's hand,  
Gently from the sunset golden,  
Into that drear land.

Dusky shadows all about me  
Whispered sad and low,  
Saying I should walk forever  
In their vale of woe.

Telling on my life forever  
Would their darkness stay,  
As across the threat'ning heavens  
Then a dark cloud lay.

Half despairing wildly cried I  
To the sombre night:  
"Take me from the gloomy shadows  
To the blessed light."

Lo! the clouds were fringed with moonlight:  
Joy, O soul of mine!  
There can never be dark shadows  
Save where light does shine.

WILD POPPIES.

THE STATE FLOWER OF CALIFORNIA.

BEAUTIFUL, golden wild poppies,  
That nod in the soft, balmy air,  
Well were you chosen the emblem  
Of the land of all lands most fair.

Who planted you, golden poppies?  
Were you here when the world was new?  
Were you painted by the morning?  
Do you mirror the sunset's hue?

Do you grow from seeds of bright gold  
That are hidden away from sight?  
Are you stars come down from the sky  
That shine in the radiant light?

Are you golden cups o'erflowing  
With jewels of rain-drops and dew?  
Why are you so constant-hearted  
To the State that has chosen you?

With gold you carpet the meadows,  
Like the gold paved "Land of the Blest,"  
Wild poppies—the flower emblem  
Of the State of "The golden West."

## THE KING'S RETURN.

IN MEMORY OF KALAKAUA.

ON the throbbing heart of the tropic sea,  
Like lilies, the fair islands lay,  
Half asleep in the sun.

The winds seemed to sing,  
"We wait for our king."

The spray, like numberless pearls, on the shore  
Is cast by the generous hand  
Of the blue southern sea.

The waves seem to sing;  
"We wait for our king."

There are beautiful bridges of rainbows,  
Fair nature's triumphal arches  
Of sunbeams and spray drops.

Sea-nymphs seem to sing;  
"We wait for our king."

Under the feathery cocoanut trees,  
Shading eyes from the eastern sun,  
Stand subjects most loyal—

The birds seem to sing;  
"We wait for our king."

In the fair island city flags flutter  
Like tropical birds in the air,  
And music is sounding;  
    Each face seems to sing;  
    “ We wait for our king.”

In the heart of the queen in the palace  
What rapture to welcome the loved  
Once again to his home.  
    What joy thus to sing;  
    “ We wait for our king.”

\*           \*           \*           \*           \*           \*

Far, far away out at sea is a sail,  
Like the white wing of a wild bird,  
On the bright golden sky—  
    Air, earth and sea sing;  
    “ We wait for our king.”

The wing has changed to a bird, then a ship,  
A grand man-of-war, on whose masts  
Two nations' flags flutter.  
    The ship that will bring  
    The waited-for king.

Half-mast are the flags, draped in black the ship;  
The sunbeams and rainbows are gone;  
The waves wail and moan;  
    The glad song has fled,  
    The good king is dead.

## "SOME ONE."

THERE'S something wanting in the morning,  
The city wears a sombre look to-day;  
Song birds I'll tell the reason to you:  
"Somebody" is away.

If I had wings, I would have followed,  
And sung my sweetest, tenderest songs, and gay;  
I have not, and I am so lonely,  
For "Someone" is away.

The air is full of hope this morning,  
Birds never sang so sweet until to-day;  
Not one fair flower had bloomed, I thought,  
Since "Someone" went away.

If I had wings, song-birds, I'd fold them;  
Here in the city I would rather stay.  
I'll whisper low the reason to you;  
"Someone" comes home to-day.



CAST ASIDE.

A BABY sitting in the sunshine on the floor  
Tried with her dimpled hands to brush the  
sunbeams from her dress.  
So sitting in life's sunshine we oft cast aside  
With thoughtless hands, counting as naught the  
brightness sent to bless.

MEMORIAL DAY.

I N a lonely spot beside the sea,  
'Neath sobbing pine trees, many, many miles away,  
Lies a soldier brave.  
Like a pagan woman to the sun I cry:  
"Decorate his grave."

"O sun send down your beams most brightly;  
Make on that grave, mourned by the ever restless sea,  
Blue violets grow.  
O summer wild birds, sing o'er my soldier dead,  
A requiem low.

When on his grave, tributes of flowers  
 His soldier comrades brave shall place, they'll start at  
 sight

Of violets blue;  
 Nor dream, at prayer of mine, for love of him,  
 The violets grew.

### A LEGEND OF CALVARY.

**R**ED-BREASTED robin airily poising  
 On slender twig of an apple tree,  
 From far away land, and from long, long years past,  
 You bring me a legend of Calvary.

Upon the cross our Savior was dying,  
 A crown of thorns on His sacred head,  
 A little bird hovered pityingly near Him,  
 When some who had loved Him, foresook him and  
 fled.

The little brown bird from the cruel crown  
 A piercing thorn took gently away,  
 And the crimson blood falling from that holy brow,  
 Changed the sombre brown bird to a red breast gay.

A WHITE CHRYSANTHEMUM.

LAST night beside my hearthstone  
She sat in snowy dress,  
The firelight touched her golden hair  
With many a fond caress.

She wore white autumn flowers,  
Like frozen stars they seemed;  
One flower she left, else I should think  
Of angels I had dreamed.

THE HEART'S FIRELIGHT.

I SIT beside the hearthstone of your heart,  
A welcome guest.  
I was a wanderer, without a home;  
You bade me rest.

I sang bright songs of hope, I was so glad  
You bade me stay.  
I fanned the embers dull, and brighter grew  
The flame each day.

To be the chirping cricket on your hearth  
 Is joy to me,  
 And you have promised that no other one  
 Shall ever be,

The same that I am now to you, dear love,  
 So close to thee.  
 No other shall e'er fill the corner bright  
 You've given me.

#### DISCOVERY OF THE SUNSHINE MINE.

I HAD left the tired miners  
 When the sun was turning to gold  
 The long line<sup>of</sup> of purple mountains,  
 And the tall peaks rugged and bold.

I was just a toiling miner,  
 At work on the "Eagle's wing claim,"  
 Searching, alas! searching vainly,  
 Yet hoping and toiling the same.

On my shoulder pick and shovel,  
 That fair day in early June,  
 As I drew near our small cabin  
 I was whistling a merry tune.

I gleefully called: "Come Sunshine."  
She was all in the world to me.  
"Where are you hiding my Sunshine."  
Why where can my darling child be?"

The sunlight fell on the cabin,  
And danced in the open door,  
A slanting pathway of glory  
It made on the rude wooden floor.

No answer, but silence—silence—  
Save the cry of a lonely bird,  
And the summer breezes sighing  
Through the tree-tops was all I heard.

But where was my little daughter,  
My darling with bright golden hair?  
"Where are you? Where are you Sunshine?"  
Then I cried in my wild despair.

For Sunshine, my little daughter,  
My one treasure, young and so fair,  
Was always waiting to meet me;  
The thought of her drove away care.

In yesterday's fair June weather  
Up the cañon, rock-strewn and wide,  
To find the first wild columbines,  
We had wandered at eventide.

As swift as the bullet that flies  
From gun, to the heart of a deer,  
As crushing, stunning, and hopeless,  
Came to me the terrible fear,

That Sunshine in search of flowers  
Up the trail had wandered away,  
Then I, who had forgotten God,  
In my agony knelt to pray.

I thought of the icy cold winds  
From the peaks of eternal snow,  
Of cruel, prowling, hungry wolves,  
And of chasms that yawned below.

Quick, half dazed and blind, I stumbled  
Up the cañon, wild with despair,  
To search for my little Sunshine  
For my darling with golden hair.

Heart-broken, I wandered onward,  
I begged the sun longer to stay,  
The night not to wrap its black arms  
Round the mountain's dangerous way.

Something bright gleamed just before me,  
Where the first wild columbines grew;  
I hugged it close to my heart,  
'Twas a small, worn, copper-toed shoe.

Around a boulder I hastened,  
And there, among the wild flowers,  
Filling her little checked apron,  
My Sunshine had wandered for hours.

“I was lost papa, and frightened,”  
She sobbed, and I sobbed too;  
“I came, papa, up the cañon  
To gather these flowers for you.”

“Down there is my shoe,” said Sunshine.  
It was where a stream used to run;  
A silvery gliding serpent  
It had looked in the summer sun.

Down the deep ravine I hastened,  
Where Sunshine had lost her small shoe;  
Sobbing, I struck with pick the rocks  
As any old miner would do.

I had shattered gold-bearing quartz,  
Through its heart ran a golden line;  
'Tis the richest claim in the state,  
And I call it, “The Sunshine Mine.”

## A DREAM.

I DREAMED the chariot wheels of time had ceased  
to roll;  
That the blue heavens were parted like a riven scroll;  
That holy angels, with bright shining hair,  
Floating about them in the summer air,  
God's messengers from the heavenly land,  
Had wandered down to earth from His right hand.  
The sea gave up its dead from parted waves;  
Like lilies fair, the dead forsook their graves.  
My mother, radiant as evening star,  
I saw, smiling upon me from afar.  
I heard a voice of majesty that cried:  
"Come all who love The Christ, The Crucified."  
I hastened to the grave of one I love;  
It was unchanged, the tall grass waved above,  
And violets still threaded wreaths of blue,  
And sunbeams turned to jewels drops of dew.  
I whispered softly: "Wake love, come with me.  
'Tis morning love, hasten, I wait for thee."  
I threw myself upon his fast-sealed grave,  
Above the heart I thought so good and brave;  
I begged grim Death his iron chains to burst;  
A voice proclaimed: "The dead in Christ, rise first."



MY MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY.

TO-DAY'S my mother's birthday, yet I cannot lay  
Fair flowers on her grave, it is so far away,  
Nor with my face bent low among the daisies wild,  
Whisper, "I love you mother, do you hear your  
child?"

And so alone I sit in revery to-night,  
And wonder if earth's birthdays in that land of light  
They keep, or count it life when through the pearly  
gate

They enter in the city paved with gold. I wait  
An answer, but the night wind hurries silent by;  
No answer comes to me from out the star-gemmed sky.

A WINTER'S DAY.

CALIFORNIA.

TO-DAY I hold pink rosebuds, lilies white,  
Daisies and wildwood violets in my hand;  
Dark ivy to the casement clings;  
The sea a sapphire gleams, an emerald the land.  
A tiny shadow, 'tis a tropic bird in flight,  
That cuts a sunbeam with its wings,  
Its scarlet wings,  
And glad song sings.

Such is fair California's winter day.  
 Where is the sparkling, dazzling, icy crown?  
     The ermine robe on plain and hill?  
 The last year's robin's empty nest in branches brown?  
 The snow on trees? The little snowbirds? Flown  
     away?  
 The frozen lake? The moonlight still?  
     The moonlight still  
     On icy hill?

Where are the branches bending 'neath the snow?  
 The silver fringe of icicles upon the eaves?  
     The marble of the hills and dells?  
 The north wind scattering far the dry brown leaves?  
 The frost upon the panes? The firelights's bright  
     glow?  
 The merry, merry sound of bells?  
     The sound of bells  
     Through icy dells.

Grim winter heard upon the mountains tall,  
 The softly wooing voice of the fair tropic sea.  
     Felt kisses of the warm, sweet air,  
 The flower-filled air, that whispered, "Come with  
     me."  
 Dropped ermine robe, let icy scepter fall,  
     And stole from mountains down to land of all most  
     fair;  
         To land most fair,  
         From icy air.

THE SEA IS A GRAVE TO-DAY.

THE sea is a grave to-day;  
On its bosom one young and fair,  
Sleeps the long, long dreamless sleep,  
With seaweed twined in her hair.

Rocked by the billows she rests,  
And softly the winds o'er the deep  
Sing of her who sleeps so well;  
"She will never wake to weep."

A sunbeam kissed her still face,  
And wrapped in the fleecy white spray,  
She sank 'neath the waves she sought;  
And the sea is a grave to-day.

## MORNING GLORIES.

MORNING glories climbing  
Upward to greet the dawning,  
Sparkling with fair dewdrop jewels,  
Noon-tide and evening scorning.

Swayed by summer breezes,  
Kissed by droning, drowsy bees,  
Lovingly, gracefully clinging  
To branches of stately trees.

Coquetry's the emblem  
That has been chosen for you;  
But ne'er to radiant morning  
Were ever flowers so true.

For you fold your blossoms  
From the noonday sun away  
And have no thought of aught of earth  
'Till dawn of another day.

ONE WILD MARCH NIGHT.

ONE wild March night when the wind was high  
Before the fire sat Dora and I.

Grim was the fireplace, deep and wide,  
Two tall black andirons stood side by side.

Stories of goblins and elves I told  
'Till the maple logs turned to living gold.

I said to Dora: "If some tiny elf  
Should say you no longer could be yourself,

Pray who would you be, my love, my life?"  
She answered: "I'd be Dick, your second wife."

## A PRINCE.

J. N. E. W.

I N his home in the valley, that afar  
Like a dream of beauty, wanders away;  
With background of mountains that kiss the sky,  
I saw a young Prince to-day.

The Prince was enthroned in his mother's arms,  
His beautiful Queen, so winsome and fair,  
A sunbeam stole through the window, and placed,  
A crown on the baby's hair.

His cheeks had the tint of the pink sea shell  
And his eyes the look of the coming king.  
Oh! I wonder did others see the crown  
I saw, on the Prince I sing?

## AWAY.

T HE foils are idly crossed upon the wall,  
Tied with a silken ribbon, soft and wide,  
The color that his lady wears, fair blue;  
Shakespeare much read, alas! lies tossed aside.

I am the lady who the fair blue wears;  
I am his heroine in Shakespeare's plays;  
Often I've wielded one bright steely foil;  
Alone I dream away the autumn days.

Out from our home my hero brother's gone,  
Out to win bread, perhaps renown and fame;  
Life that was like one long bright summer day,  
Never again can be to me the same.

WILD VIOLETS.

**B**ECAUSE you mirror the sky  
In colors of heaven's own blue,  
For your sweet and dainty selves,  
Violets, I love you.

For thoughts of your forest home,  
Its wild flowers sparkling with dew;  
For the sake of the giver kind,  
Violets, I love you.

## THE ROYAL SUCCESSION.

SUMMER had lingered long on the plains,  
Summer robbed of her beautiful green;  
Heart-shaped leaves of the cottonwood trees,  
Motionless waited the autumn wind keen.

Dust and ashes the gray-brown earth seemed;  
Birds had flown southward to find fresh flowers,  
Autumn stood tiptoe on mountains cool,  
For summer's reign was counted by hours.

Passionate summer shed great burning tears  
And turned the sky to a huge black cave,  
Where fiery lightning serpents played;  
Soon dry leaves showered on summer's grave.

Lo! in the morning fair autumn reigned,  
An eastern queen dressed in colors bright,  
From mountain tops like a goddess fair,  
She came to the plains in the soft moonlight.



ON THE BEACH.

THE white-crested waves at my feet  
Tossed a piece of a ship lost at sea;  
I seized it quick with my trembling hands,  
Then I tossed it away from me.

In fancy I saw a proud ship,  
Homeward bound from the bright sunset land,  
And naught was left of that white winged bark,  
But the fragment tossed on the sand.

No avail to cast it away,  
For great waves brought it back to the strand,  
As memory brings all our shipwrecked hopes,  
To us with a pitiless hand.

## A VALENTINE.

BLUE VIOLETS EMBLEM OF LOVE.

*—Language of Flowers.*

**L**IKE a quiver of arrows my thoughts—  
 Some are golden, some silver, some steel,  
 Alone to-day with fair Cupid's bow  
 In my high eastern window I kneel.  
 I wreath one arrow with violets blue,  
 Then I bend the bow and it flies to you.

## NEW YEAR FANCIES.

**F**ORGETTING the past, with its dreams  
 That faded away  
 Like the radiant dazzling colors of sunset  
 That came not to stay.

The fleecy white clouds, you fancied  
 Were castles most fair  
 With towers and turrets, with banners of sunbeams  
 Afloat in the air.

Forgetting the past, with its dreams  
Like tales that are told,  
Dream dreams brighter, aye fairer than ever before  
In years now grown old.

EITHER WAY.

**B**LUE Cloud, an Indian bad,  
Paused long before his gate;  
He had been drinking whisky,  
And stayed out rather late.

Blue Cloud was always bad,  
To-night he longed to fight;  
Alas! poor little squaw  
Asleep in the moonlight.

“ If she has gone to sleep  
I’ll beat her black and blue;  
If she’s up burning wood,  
Why then I’ll beat her too.

But if the room is cold  
I’ll beat her.” Blue Cloud said;  
“ Or if she watched not for me  
I’ll beat her sleepy head.”

Poor little dusky squaw,  
Though dutiful you be,  
You surely will be beaten.  
White men do you see?

### MY NEW ENGLAND HOME.

A VISION fair of a quiet town  
Memory brings to me to-night;  
A town on the banks of a river chill,  
Asleep in the pale moonlight.

Tall trees stand on the river banks  
Mirrored ghostly in depths below;  
Green tangled wealth of blackberry vines,  
And golden-rod, by the roadside grow.

Across the village street the elms  
Whisper together in voices low,  
And moonlight soft in silvery showers  
On the brown earth falls like snow.

I see the white church on the hill  
And the clock in its tall tower,  
With its iron hands together clasped,  
As it tolls the midnight hour.

The moonlight is fading fast away,  
My home is now by a tropic sea;  
Outside my window are stately palms;  
But my childhood's home is dear to me.

THE LOVELIEST PICTURE.

(MABEL M——)

I N an artist's studio I looked  
Upon many pictures, grand and bold,  
On purple mountains crowned with snow,  
And radiant sunsets of crimson and gold.

I stood almost entranced before  
A fairy-like, far New England scene;  
A brown road leading, leading away  
Through heart of a forest robed in summer's green.

I felt the cool moist air of the woods  
And I heard a wild bird's mournful cry,  
I saw starry blossoms, nodding ferns,  
And could hear a tiny brook murmuring by.

I turned from painted canvas, and lo!  
A lovely, living picture was there,  
A little maiden, only just seven,  
Gracefully poised, and with sweet childish air.

From under her wide felt hat she gave  
Coquettish glances from sparkling eyes,  
Like wild pink roses her dimpled cheeks,  
Her eyes were the color of soft azure skies.

“Life’s Morning,” seemed her beautiful face,  
On which rested no shadow of care,  
Each canvas showed a master’s touch,  
But I thought her the loveliest picture there.

#### A PRAYER.

CHRIST pity all sailors to-night  
On the tempest-tossed sea.  
Say “peace” to the storm,  
The waves obey Thee.

I hear the sea lash the great rocks.  
Stars are hidden from sight,  
The winds wail and moan;  
Christ keep all to-night.

My heart bird-like flies to a ship  
Far away out at sea;  
Oh pity! and bring  
My sailor to me,

Or out on the wings of the storm  
Send my soul to his side,  
Forever to be  
In heaven his bride.

IN THE GLOAMING.

I SAW you in the gloaming,  
When, wrapped in silver mist, the city  
Like a fair bride stood in fleecy veil.  
No sun, no stars, only the cold grey fog;  
Even the winds had ceased to sob and wail.  
Now you are real to me,  
While I am still, and ever must be,  
Like the cold mist, silvery white,  
That melts away so soon at the sun's kiss—  
That ghost-like glides away at morning's light.

## COMPENSATION.

**D**ARK clouds rolled over the sky,  
And but one star could I see;  
I cried in my wild despair:

“Let the bright star shine for me.”

But the purple clouds rolled on  
And hid the star from my sight,  
When lo! where the clouds had been  
The fair moon was shining bright.

## A CIGARETTE.

**T**HE day is dying. In the western sky  
The sun still lingers, brightness lies on waves,  
The fallen shield of day. There comes to me  
A vision fair, as curling mist-wreaths fly  
Across the sun like puffs of smoke. There lies  
Upon the window-sill a cigarette.  
A tiny thing from Egypt far, and yet,  
The lotus floating on the Nile, blue skies,



Tall palms, and faces dark, fade fast away;  
And Venice rises up from waves of blue,  
Its waters tinted with the sunset's hue;  
And melody of bells at close of day.  
A traveler.—The sunset lingers yet  
As does the vision, and—the cigarette.

WAITING AT THE GATE.

THE birds are singing sweet vespers,  
As I stand by our cottage gate;  
In the glory of slanting sunbeams,  
I watch for my loved one and wait.

The city across the waters  
Seems fading into the sea,  
As I watch a boat coming, coming,  
That's bringing my loved one to me.

I often think in the sunset,  
As among the flowers I wait,  
And the birds are singing sweet vespers,  
Shall I stand at the pearly gate?

Shall I stand in untold glory?  
Shall I watch a boat stem the tide?  
Shall I welcome, as now, my loved one  
To our home on the other side?

## IN THE CATHEDRAL.

O H where is she now I wonder,  
The girl with the pale golden hair,  
And sweet white face, and violet eyes,  
Who knelt in the church at prayer?

Have the soft Italian breezes  
Kissed the roses back to her face?  
Do her eyes have still the saintly look  
That they wore in that holy place?

Oh where is she now I wonder  
The girl with the pale golden hair?  
In her English home?—In Italy bright?  
Or in heaven an angel fair?

SAN JUAN BY THE SEA.

I SAW thee in the sunset,  
Fair San Juan by the Sea,  
Like a golden band of glory  
Looked the western sky to me.  
The deep blue of the waters  
Met the orange of the sky,  
That melted into palest gold  
Where one star shone out on high.

BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS.

I N our far off New England home,  
At the side of the chimney wide,  
Ever on Christmas eve I used to hang,  
Maxy's small stockings side by side.  
Now Maxy's away at school  
In a university town,  
To-morrow is Christmas day,  
And the snow comes drifting down.

If I had but one golden coin,  
But a crumb to a millionaire,  
'Twould give me the sound of my darling's voice,  
A glimpse of his brown curly hair.  
Now Maxy's away at school  
In a university town,  
To-morrow is Christmas day,  
And the snow comes drifting down.

Upon one merry Christmas eve  
Maxy mine made a boyish boast;  
"Some Christmas mamma, my stockings I'll fill  
And bring you what you love most."  
Now Maxy's away at school  
In a university town,  
To-morrow is Christmas day,  
And the snow comes drifting down.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is Maxy's step on the stair,  
Oh! joy it was no idle boast;  
"Some Christmas mamma, my stockings I'll fill  
And bring you what you love most."  
Now Maxy is not at school  
In a university town,  
To-morrow is Christmas day,  
And the snow comes dancing down.

AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.

I WATCH this cold, bright winter's day, the sun-  
beams dancing  
Like flocks of yellow birds across the floor,  
And listen for the bounding step of Maxy;  
Alas! I know the holidays are o'er.

I marvel much at some fair Spartan mother sending  
Her noble, loving boy to far-off battle-field,  
Smiling, as with untrembling hand she buckles  
Over her darling's heart a silver shield.

I wonder if she ever roamed the meadows holding  
A small brown hand in her's, searching for daisies  
white,  
And buttercups, like fallen stars from heaven,  
Some summer morning, bathed in rosy light.

I wonder if beside some marble fane, sad weeping,  
Mother and son have mourned their Spartan soldier  
dead;  
Have sweet white flowers placed, and laurel wreaths,  
And broken prayer in holy temple said.

There still are many like the Spartan mother sending  
 Into life's battle-field, their boy, their joy and pride,  
 With smiling face, but aching heart; and praying  
 "The God of battles" to be on his side.

### WHITHER.

**I**N my window an empty cage,  
 The bird has flown, who can tell where?  
 Is it stranger the soul has gone  
 And a cold form is lying there?

### SUSPENSE.

**T**HE sky and the sea like two nuns  
 Wear mantles of gray,  
 And like a black cross seem the masts  
 And the yards of a ship far away.

Is it coming, coming to me  
 This heavy black cross?  
 Shall the hopes and the joys of my life  
 Suffer pitiful shipwreck and loss?

The ship like a bird on the wing,  
Seems only to stay.  
Alas! it is coming, it tacks,  
Oh! thank God it is sailing away.

## SAFE.

**A**T the ebb of the tide, a stately ship,  
Sailed away to a southern coast;  
In the moonlight pale, with sails unfurled,  
It seemed but a white, sheeted ghost.

On the midnight tide, it drifted away;  
Far away on the trackless main;  
The stars shone bright, but the night-wind wailed,  
“It will never come back again.”

\* \* \* \* \*

The ship came back from the sunny south coast,  
Like a bird, with its white wings spread;  
The morning sun made the sea like gold,  
And the wind with its warning had fled.

## SUNSET FANCIES.

AT THE GOLDEN GATE.

FLAME-COLOR, orange and palest gold,  
Sunset stairs to the azure sky,  
Up which the summer day has gone,  
Trailing her robes of amethyst dye.

Shadowy grows the stairway, then dim,  
As night in somber robe comes down,  
Her dusky mantle gemmed with stars,  
On her forehead a crescent crown.

## WHERE?

IN my tiny boat alone,  
Just inside the Golden Gate,  
From tropic shore, or from out at sea,  
For message to come I wait.

'Twas sunset an hour ago  
And long slanting lines of light  
Closed the way to the ever restless sea,  
Through the golden gateway bright.



But the hand of twilight came  
And loosened the yellow bars,  
Now a silver pathway across the waves  
Is lighted by gleaming stars.

O city upon the hills,  
A queen rising out of the sea,  
Your thousand firefly lights seem to call;  
"Come back, we've a home for thee."

I hear; but "The sea is His;"  
If He calls me I must go  
Out on eternity's fathomless sea;  
What He wills is best, I know.

TO ADA REHAN'S PICTURE.

UPON the city's street,  
I paused at vision fair;  
Eyes where genius shines,  
Wealth of waving hair;  
Snowy neck and arms,  
Mouth like Cupid's bow,  
Dream of poet's soul,  
Dress of long ago.

Form of faultless mould,  
 Poise of stately grace;  
 Every day I gaze  
 On that perfect face;  
 And I turn away  
 With a fond regret,  
 Though soon far from me,  
 I can ne'er forget.

## ALPINE BARRY.

HERO, MARTYR.

**L**OFTY Alps lifting up to the sky  
 Giant helmets and nodding plumes white,  
 Sea of ice stretching far, far away;  
 Sea of fire in sunset's red light.

Holy monks out into the gloaming  
 Sending brave Barry, rescuer, guide;  
 "Jesu protect all lost ones," they pray,  
 "Bring each again to his fireside."

Avalanche sweeping with awful sound,  
 From the tall peaks to chasms below;  
 Out from the light of the hospice door,  
 Out on the white waste, the trackless snow.

Brave Barry going, dog that had saved  
Forty lost ones from the Alpine cold,  
Hardy travelers of many lands,  
And one a fair boy with curls of gold.

\* \* \* \* \*

A soldier struggling up the wild pass,  
Fighting the fierce storm that sweeps the land,  
A soldier lying beneath the snow  
With his trusty sword clasped in his hand.

A cry of despair from stiff'ning lips;  
Brave Barry hast'ning a life to save,  
Through the blinding storm and cruel snow  
Finding his way to the soldier's grave.

\* \* \* \* \*

A soldier wan before the fire  
Telling the monks in its cheerful glow,  
Of his dreadful battle with the storm,  
And his grave in the white drifted snow.

Of a savage beast with warm moist breath,  
Of gleaming eyes that above him bent,  
And that the sword he grasped in his hand  
Through the heart of the monster he sent.

A look of horror upon each face;  
An aged monk in a low voice said:  
"Oh! brothers it was our noble dog."  
In the dawn they found brave Barry—dead.

TO—————.

WOULD the sun shine as bright as now  
Dear heart if you were gone?  
Would birds upon the trees  
Forget their song?  
Would flowers bloom?  
Would soft winds whisper to the sea?  
Would hearts be merry, light and gay?  
Could such things be?

I know the sun would shine as bright  
Dear heart if you were gone.  
The happy birds would not  
Forget their song.  
Flowers would bloom  
Soft winds would whisper to the sea.  
To many, life would be as sweet,  
But not to me.

THE SAPPHIRE SEA.

THE sky is a sapphire sea;  
The stars so sparkling and bright,  
Have caught and reflected the glory  
Of "the city which hath no night."

Blue, blue is the sea and at rest,  
Save where sky and mountains meet;  
There long white fleecy lines of clouds  
Like surf on the hill-tops beat.

And lo! there's a crescent-shaped boat  
Of silver, upon the sea;  
And in it are jewel-crowned ones,  
Who waft a message to me.

For I am a mermaid glad;  
I dwell under the sapphire sea,  
I gather bright jewels and pearls,  
The work that is given me.

## A PARIS BONNET.

DEACON Smallman to the city  
Business called, one bright spring day.  
“Bring me home a lovely bonnet,”  
Said his young wife, pretty May.

She was quite a living picture,  
Gypsy-faced, and full of life.  
“Too worldly minded” gossips said,  
“For a sober Deacon’s wife.”

At the milliner’s the Deacon  
Heaved a regretful sigh;  
True the bonnets were “reel putty,”  
But the prices were so high.

At last the charming milliner  
Said : “Here’s a Paris poke  
Only six bits,” and then she coughed  
’Till the Deacon thought she’d choke.

“’Twill be so very sweet,” she said,  
“Trimmed with buttercups, you know  
And poppies, and—and clover leaves  
And with just a tiny bow.”

Well, the Deacon bought the bonnet,  
And May's rougish gypsy face  
Under the stylish "Paris poke,"  
Was the envy of the place.

One day through quiet Meadowtown  
Marching down the village street,  
Came the Salvation Army,  
With much music loud, not sweet.

Oh clouds! blot out the sunshine fair.  
Each Salvation woman wore  
"A Paris poke," minus flowers.  
Alas! the good Deacon swore.

"This world is but a stage," we know,  
"Men are actors," so they say.  
At Deacon Smallman's rural home  
There was held a matinee.

## ALL THAT REMAINS.

IN a fair southern land, an old church stands  
A ruin, with curious roof of tiles;  
Through crumbling arches gray, star tapers gleam,  
And moonlight shadows wander up its aisles.

Through rifts in broken roof, sunbeams caress  
The pictured face of saint with golden hair;  
Time's hand has blotted out each one save her's,  
Of all the holy faces gathered there.

When noble lord, and peasant too, pass by  
That ancient church upon their sev'ral ways,  
Before the saint with the bright golden hair,  
In loving homage each one kneels and prays.

Like that old Spanish church, many a life  
A ruin now, once was a holy place;  
Upon whose walls of memory still hang,  
The picture of some loving, saintly face.



THE SUN HAS GONE DOWN.

SUNSHINE over the city,  
And sunlight upon the bay,  
Peace and hope, joy and gladness,  
Life but a bright summer's day.

Fog, and mist, and the darkness,  
Over the sea and the town;  
Houses and ships are spectres,  
For oh! the sun has gone down.

Life was to me all sunshine,  
When out on the shoreless sea  
Sailed one I loved, and now  
The sun has gone down for me.

## DO THEY KNOW?

**D**O the loved dead know, in their bright heavenly  
home,  
When on their dreamless beds are laid earth's  
flowers sweet,  
When blue forget-me-nots, and lilies white  
Upon their lonely graves the wild-flowers meet?

It were not strange if earthly flower-full hands,  
And angel hands should bridge death's river, dark  
and wide;  
Or if our Father, earth's fair, fading flowers,  
Should make immortal on the heavenly side.

CALIFORNIA.

NEVER a land so fair,  
Land of sunsets golden,  
Kissed by a sapphire sea,  
Land of Missions olden.

Home of birds and flowers,  
Olive and tropic palm;  
Black-winged storms sweep never  
O'er its summer skies calm.

Land of gold and silver,  
Land of honey and bees,  
Land of wine and plenty,  
Land of the giant trees.

Of California

Proud may her sons well be,  
Proud of a land so fair,  
Kissed by a sapphire sea.

## MY WATCH.

YOU are dying my little watch,  
Your heart is beating slow;  
I hold you in my hands,  
I listen,—oh! so low  
Is your voice that used to chirp  
Like a cricket, long ago.

Little watch, I grieve, oh I grieve  
That your life's work is done;  
That your heart will not beat  
At setting of the sun,  
That your hands will be at rest,  
That your race is almost run.

You were old, O my little watch,  
When first into your face  
I looked with childish eyes  
Before the fire place;  
The red light dancing gaily  
On your tiny jeweled case.

My loving gaze followed your hands  
As in the rosy glow  
I sat near grandmama,  
Grandma who loved me so.  
She promised you should be mine  
When a lady I should grow.

Little watch she left me alone  
With none to care for me,  
Lonely and sad of heart  
I had a friend in thee.  
A talisman since childhood  
You have ever seemed to me.

Like a fair Egyptian princess  
Of ages now grown old,  
Little watch I'll keep thee  
In thy small case of gold,  
Wrapped like ancient mummy  
In many a silken fold.

## NIGHT AT SEA.

THE stars like tapers burn  
Across the waters deep;  
The winds, like summer breezes sigh,  
In peace I'll fall asleep.

My Father lit the stars,  
He stilled the storm-tossed deep,  
His voice controlled the winds;  
Therefore in peace I'll sleep.

## A LAUREL WREATH.

THE laurel trees wandered down to the shore  
To mirror their faces in the blue waves.  
The summer breeze whispered gently to them  
Of sea-nymphs who dwell in pearl-strewn caves.

The moonlight lay like a silvery shield  
With moving laurel leaves traced on its side,  
From out of the ocean Neptune came,  
To choose a crown for his sea-nymph bride.

He gathered a wreath of bright laurel leaves;  
And sailors oft see in the moonlight fair;  
In Nautilus boat, the Ocean Queen,  
With a laurel wreath on her waving hair.

DAY DREAMS.

THE countless stars are dreams we dream when  
we're awake,  
But ev'ry morn the golden sun blots out the stars,  
Or night with black cloud-curtains shuts them from  
our sight;  
Yet when the sun and clouds are gone, and in the sky  
The moon, a silver crescent crowns the evening hour,  
They come again, and yet again, night after night.  
We call dreams "toys," because we may not keep  
them now;  
But when we walk among the stars, as angels do,  
Perchance we'll find them real, not "toys," our day  
dreams bright.

## ETERNAL SILENCE.

DEAD in your coffin lying,  
Cold lips of ashen hue,  
Brow of marble as peaceful  
As a cloudless sky of blue.

Lips oh! so cold and ashen,  
You never move to tell  
If your spirit eyes have opened  
To light of heaven or hell.

White lips that once were ruby,  
Death's secret so well you keep  
That the living heart misgives  
Lest you sleep the endless sleep.



TO-MORROW WILL BE BRIGHT.

THE sea to-day is sad  
It wears a mantle of gray,  
And ships are but shadows dim  
That were white-winged yesterday.

To-day the rain-drops fall,  
And winds have a sullen roar,  
But to-morrow the sun will shine  
As bright as ever before.

The ships, now phantom barques,  
Will gleam in the glad sunlight;  
Heart of mine so sad rejoice,  
For to-morrow will be bright.

## UNDER THE SENTENCE OF DEATH.

**U**NDER the sentence of death,  
 A prisoner in his cell;  
 Like a string of beads his days,  
 And he knows their number well.

Under the sentence of death,  
 All who walk life's way;  
 None but the Judge knows the hour,  
 Only He the fatal day.

## A KING'S DAUGHTER.

**I**F upon the city's street  
 My fair Princess you should meet,  
 Ina, with her gentle face so fair,  
 In her simple woolen dress,  
 You would never, never guess,  
 To a royal kingdom she was heir.

Often those who know her well  
To each other softly tell  
    Of her life, so quiet, yet so grand;  
That upon her golden hair  
Rests a crown of jewels rare,  
    Placed there by her loving Father's hand.

Tiny cross my Princess wears,  
As a token that she shares  
    Burdens with all children of the King.  
Like the North Star shining bright,  
Sea-tossed ones she guides aright  
    To the sure, safe shadow of His wing.

Earthly kingdoms are laid low,  
But her Father's throne we know  
    Through eternity shall surely stand;  
Here, she has many a care,  
But she'll reign forever there  
    A fair Princess, at the King's right hand.

## CHANGED.

THE south wind whispered in merrie May,  
“Come, come quickly, flowers fair;”  
And dainty blossoms pink and white  
Covered the apple trees brown and bare.

Gay dandelions in meadows gleamed,  
The grass showed many soldier-like blades,  
The maiden's-hair nodded, and violets blue  
Nestled close to the trees in sylvan glades.

The bees buzzed about among the flowers  
With a cheerful, cheering, constant sound,  
And the little bird sang its soul away  
To the fond loving heart it had found.

But the golden dandelions now  
Are fluffy bits of brownny fuzz,  
And the bees that kissed the flowers fair  
Have lost their cheerful, cheery buzz.

In the hearts of yellow roses they  
Drone a dreamy, drowsy tune  
All about honey, honey sweet,  
In the mid-day hours of June.

The birds have lost their sweet love notes  
And sing to fledgings a lullaby;  
And oft-times clouds like black-winged birds,  
Sweep across the soft blue sky.

June has roses and rainbows too  
And many a perfect summer's day,  
But for fairy-like, fragile beauty fair,  
There is never a month like May.

## FAREWELL.

**T**O-DAY I have put on a snowy gown,  
And fastened a white rose upon my breast,  
As if 'neath a coffin lid I must lie,  
In the long, long dreamless rest.

For to-day you'll look your last on my face,  
And perhaps your eyes will be filled with tears,  
Because I'll be dead to you, oh my love!  
Though each may live many years.

Then think of me ever in snowy gown,  
With one white rose just over my heart;  
There, kiss me farewell dear, I love you so,  
Just one kiss:—and then we part.

## PICTURES ON THE WALL.

SUNLIGHT and shadows only you see;  
You say the walls of my room are bare;  
To you they are only cold white walls,  
To me they are covered with pictures rare.

## A MARINE VIEW.

The moon coming up from out of the sea,  
Making a pathway of pale golden light,  
Across the blue waves from the distant sky,  
A fluttering sail, like a bird's wing white.

A young girl watching, watching the sail,  
Watching the boat cross the pathway of light,  
Her brown hair tossed by the summer breeze,  
Watching the white sail drift out of her sight.

## A FLOWER PIECE.

Clover blossoms, red and white,  
Dandelions and buttercups too,  
Sweetbrier roses, a wide-brimmed hat,  
Twined with a ribbon of faded blue,

A COMPANION PIECE.

Sweet pond-lilies out of the water  
Holding their faces, gentle and fair,  
Cat-tails nodding, and brown rocks covered  
With tender mosses and maiden's hair.

A NEW ENGLAND LANDSCAPE.

The misty light of Indian summer,  
Soft'ning the brown of a farm-house old,  
Cornfield and meadow, and slanting sunbeams  
Turning the leaves of the maples to gold.

A MAY MORNING.

An apple tree covered  
With blossoms pink and white,  
Bees and butterflies coqueting,  
Bathed in the morning's light.

ON THE PLAINS.

Lonely plains stretching away to the west,—  
Sage brush and prickly pear;  
White covered wagons toiling  
Slow in the hot, noontide glare.

ALONE.

A pine tree among the rocks,  
High up on the mountain's crest,  
Defying the bolts of Heaven,  
In its branches an eagle's nest.

## A ROCKY MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE.

Snow-crowned giant peaks to heaven uprising,  
 A cascade dashing down a cañon deep and wide,  
 A lonely cabin, like an eagle's nest,  
 Perched on an o'erhanging ledge of mountain's side.

## A SOLDIER'S GRAVE.

A soldier's grave, o'er which Mt. Shasta like a senti-  
 nal, keeps guard;  
 A soldier's lonely grave, where God's own hand has  
 planted flowers white;  
 A comrade, faithful, unforgetting, standing by that  
 grave alone,  
 Save for "a wide eyed rabbit" looking on in wonder,  
 undismayed.  
 A background radiant, the golden glory of the sun-  
 set bright.

---

Painted by fancy in lonely hours,  
 Memory's pictures though they be,  
 Europe's palaces never held  
 Pictures more life-like and real to me.



BESIDE THE SEA.

ALL the sunbeams of the sky seem dancing  
On the sparkling tropic sea,  
And the great waves ceaseless moan and thunder  
In their solemn majesty.

But across the sky, like birds quick passing,  
Shadows fall upon the waves,  
As if golden sunbeams danced too gaily  
Over sailors lonely graves.

Thus across the brightness of life's pathway,  
Sorrow comes alas! to all,  
As upon the sparkling tropic ocean,  
Dreary, dusky shadows fall.

A GOLDEN PATHWAY.

I DREAMED that I stood upon the edge  
Of a river deep, and chill and wide,  
In the twofold gloom of night and clouds,  
And I *must* cross to the other side.

I heard no sound of swift coming oar,  
I saw no sail like a bird's wing white,  
The stars were blotted out by the fog,  
"The City" was hidden from my sight.

When lo! through "severing clouds" the moon  
A pathway made to the other side,  
And one I loved was waiting for me  
As fearless I crossed the river wide.

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE.

THE endless years are only beads  
Strung on the threads of time,  
And some are bright like golden ones,  
And some like amber clear,  
While others seem like molten lead,  
And dimmed by many a tear.

To-night I held a shining bead  
And with reluctant hand  
I grasped the new, and like a nun,  
O'er it I said a prayer;  
If golden bright, or inky dark,  
I begged the Father's care.

MY TRAVELER.

**G**OD keep all who travel to-night  
By sea or by land;  
Father in heaven hold them  
Close with thy powerful hand.  
Keep them, O Father, from danger,  
Danger by land and sea,  
Safe for those who love them;  
This is my prayer to Thee.

EVERY MORNING.

**F**ROM open casement she waves her hand  
And follows me with her eyes of blue  
And smiles on me as I leave each day,  
Aye, sweet as the angels do.

Some way on the crowded city's street  
And 'mid whirl and strife for wealth and fame  
She seems to be near, my guiding star,  
Smiling on me just the same,

As from the window where roses climb,  
She wafts a good-bye to me each day;  
It is joy to work for wealth and fame  
At my darling's feet to lay.

### JEWELS FROM UNDER THE SEA.

FANCHON stood by the blue summer sea,  
Fanchon who came from a foreign land;  
Sea-nymphs she saw in each crested wave,  
Sparkling jewels in each sea-kissed hand,  
Jewels from under the sea.

Fanchon held out her beautiful hands,  
Fanchon, whose hair is like fine-spun gold;  
Called to the sea-nymphs in sweetest tones:  
"Bring me the gleaming jewels you hold.  
Jewels from under the sea."

The sea-nymphs' came on the great green waves  
Which like death shut her out from our sight,  
When lo! in the sunshine Fanchon stood,  
Sparkling and gleaming with jewels bright;  
Jewels from under the sea.

TOO SOON.

THE moon rides like a silver boat to-night  
Upon the clouds, white-crested, sky-sea waves;  
From solemn pine an eagle wings its flight  
To lofty crags, and peaks, and lonely caves.  
Through bare, brown branches of the forest trees  
The wind, with voice of Indians of long ago,  
Wails down the cañon, then, like summer breeze,  
Whispers to hardy mountain flowers low.  
A timid deer, down to a lake so clear  
It mirrors a bright star that shines on high,  
Comes down the trail, strewn with leaves sere and  
brown  
To drink under the star-gemmed sky.

\* \* \* \* \*

The clouds have blotted out the crescent moon  
And the bright stars in sky and lake of blue,  
As light is blotted out of life too soon  
By hands we trusted and believed were true.

## PLATONIC FRIENDSHIP.

MARBLE maiden fashioned in wise Plato's school,  
Sculptured fair with wondrous classic art,  
Crowned with laurel wreaths unfading,  
Yet she had a human heart.

She was but a scholar dull in that great school;  
Though at first she grasped the "pure ideal,"  
Glances from dark eyes soon taught her,  
That earthly love is real.

One small marble hand in friendship she extended,  
While the other pressed her throbbing heart,  
Nature, woman taught to worship;  
Plato teaches classic art.

UNDER A MIMOSA TREE.

THE dewdrops hang on the bending grass,  
A dragon-fly cuts a sunbeam through,  
The moaning Cypress trees lift sombre arms  
Up to skies of cloudless blue.  
A humming-bird sips from golden cup,  
In the hedges a hidden bird sings,  
And a butterfly among the flowers  
Tells me my soul has wings.

TWO STARS.

A BLUE lake among the hills  
With a fringe of shadowy pines,  
Above a glorious star  
That sparkles and gleams and shines.

A star in the clear blue lake  
That smiles to a star above,  
The type of a human heart  
That mirrors the Father's love.

## THE CLOCK ON THE TOWER.

UPON the city's crowded street  
There stands a tall stone tower,  
And up almost among the clouds,  
A clock proclaims the hour.

It is a mentor, true and good,  
To all, who hurrying by  
Consult its placid face, for Oh!  
"Figures can never lie."

That "life is passing quickly by"  
Unto all it tells alike;  
To discontented workingmen  
It says; "I never strike."

One day I took an untried street,  
(Alas! confidence misplaced)  
I found the clock I trusted well,  
Like man, was many faced.







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