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# THE SEA-FAIRIES.



















# SEA-FAIRIES

*AND OTHER POEMS*

BY

ALFRED TENNYSON

Illustrated



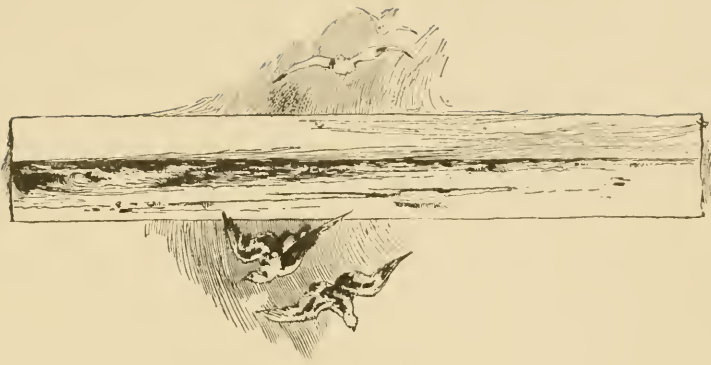
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SEA FAIRIES  
AND OTHER POEMS.

H. T. BARNES

## THE SEA-FAIRIES.

---

SLOW sail'd the weary mariners and saw,  
Betwixt the green brink and the running foam,  
Sweet faces, rounded arms, and bosoms prest  
To little harps of gold; and while they mused  
Whispering to each other half in fear,  
Shrill music reach'd them on the middle sea.

Whither away, whither away, whither away? fly no  
more.

Whither away from the high green field, and the  
happy blossoming shore?

Day and night to the billow the fountain calls:  
Down shower the gambolling waterfalls  
From wandering over the lea:  
Out of the live-green heart of the dells  
They freshen the silvery-crimson shells,  
And thick with white bells the clover-hill swells  
High over the full-toned sea:  
O hither, come hither and furl your sails,



Come hither to me and to me:  
Hither, come hither and frolic and play;  
Here it is only the mew that wails;  
We will sing to you all the day:  
Mariner, mariner, furl your sails,  
For here are the blissful downs and dales,  
And merrily, merrily carol the gales,  
And the spangle dances in bight and bay,  
And the rainbow forms and flies on the land  
Over the islands free;  
And the rainbow lives in the curve of the sand;  
Hither, come hither and see;  
And the rainbow hangs on the poising wave,  
And sweet is the colour of cove and cave,  
And sweet shall your welcome be:  
O hither, come hither, and be our lords,  
For merry brides are we:  
We will kiss sweet kisses, and speak sweet words:  
O listen, listen, your eyes shall glisten  
With pleasure and love and jubilee:  
O listen, listen, your eyes shall glisten  
When the sharp clear twang of the golden chords  
Runs up the ridged sea.  
Who can light on as happy a shore  
All the world o'er, all the world o'er?  
Whither away? listen and stay: mariner, mariner,  
fly: no more.





THE MERMAID

H. P. H. H. H.

## THE MERMAID.

---

### I.

Who would be  
A mermaid fair,  
Singing alone,  
Combing her hair  
Under the sea,  
In a golden curl  
With a comb of pearl,  
On a throne?

### II.

I would be a mermaid fair;  
I would sing to myself the whole of the day;  
With a comb of pearl I would comb my hair;  
And still as I comb'd I would sing and say,  
'Who is it loves me? who loves not me?'  
I would comb my hair till my ringlets would fall  
Low adown, low adown,



From under my starry sea-bud crown  
    Low adown and around,  
And I should look like a fountain of gold  
    Springing alone  
    With a shrill inner sound,  
    Over the throne  
    In the midst of the hall;  
Till that great sea-snake under the sea  
From his coiled sleeps in the central deeps  
Would slowly trail himself sevenfold  
Round the hall where I sate, and look in at the  
    gate  
With his large calm eyes for the love of me.  
And all the mermen under the sea  
Would feel their immortality  
Die in their hearts for the love of me.

### III.

But at night I would wander away, away,  
    I would fling on each side my low-flowing locks,  
And lightly vault from the throne and play  
    With the mermen in and out of the rocks;  
We would run to and fro, and hide and seek,  
    On the broad sea-wolds in the crimson shells,  
    Whose silvery spikes are nighest the sea.  
But if any came near I would call, and shriek,  
And adown the steep like a wave I would leap



From the diamond-ledges that jut from the dells;  
For I would not be kiss'd by all who would list,  
Of the bold merry mermen under the sea;  
They would sue me, and woo me, and flatter me,  
In the purple twilights under the sea;  
But the king of them all would carry me,  
Woo me, and win me, and marry me,  
In the branching jaspers under the sea;  
Then all the dry pied things that be  
In the hueless mosses under the sea  
Would curl round my silver feet silently,  
All looking up for the love of me.  
And if I should carol aloud, from aloft  
All things that are forked, and horned, and soft  
Would lean out from the hollow sphere of the sea,  
All looking down for the love of me.



RECOLLECTIONS OF THE  
ARABIAN NIGHTS

Hiram Buffers

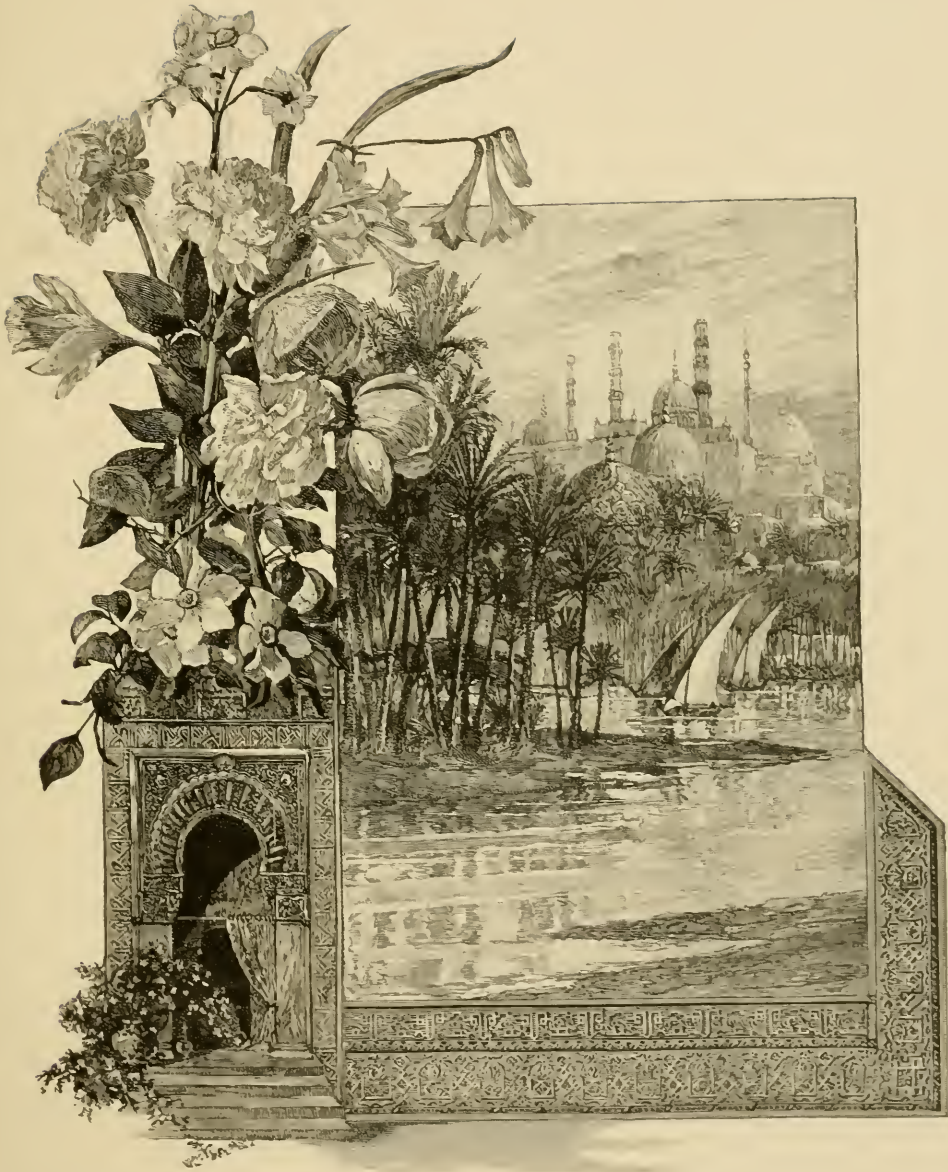
## RECOLLECTIONS OF THE ARABIAN NIGHTS.

---

WHEN the breeze of a joyful dawn blew free  
In the silken sail of infancy,  
The tide of time flow'd back with me,  
    The forward-flowing tide of time;  
And many a sheeny summer-morn,  
Adown the Tigris I was borne,  
By Bagdat's shrines of fretted gold,  
High-walled gardens green and old;  
True Mussulman was I and sworn,  
    For it was in the golden prime  
    Of good Haroun Alraschid.

Anight my shallop, rustling thro'  
The low and bloomed foliage, drove  
The fragrant, glistening deeps, and clove  
The citron-shadows in the blue:  
By garden porches on the brim,  
The costly doors flung open wide,  
Gold glittering thro' lamplight dim,  
And broider'd sofas on each side:  
    In sooth it was a goodly time,  
    For it was in the golden prime  
    Of good Haroun Alraschid.





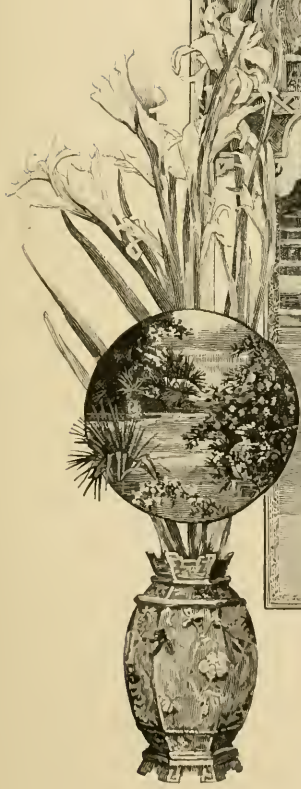
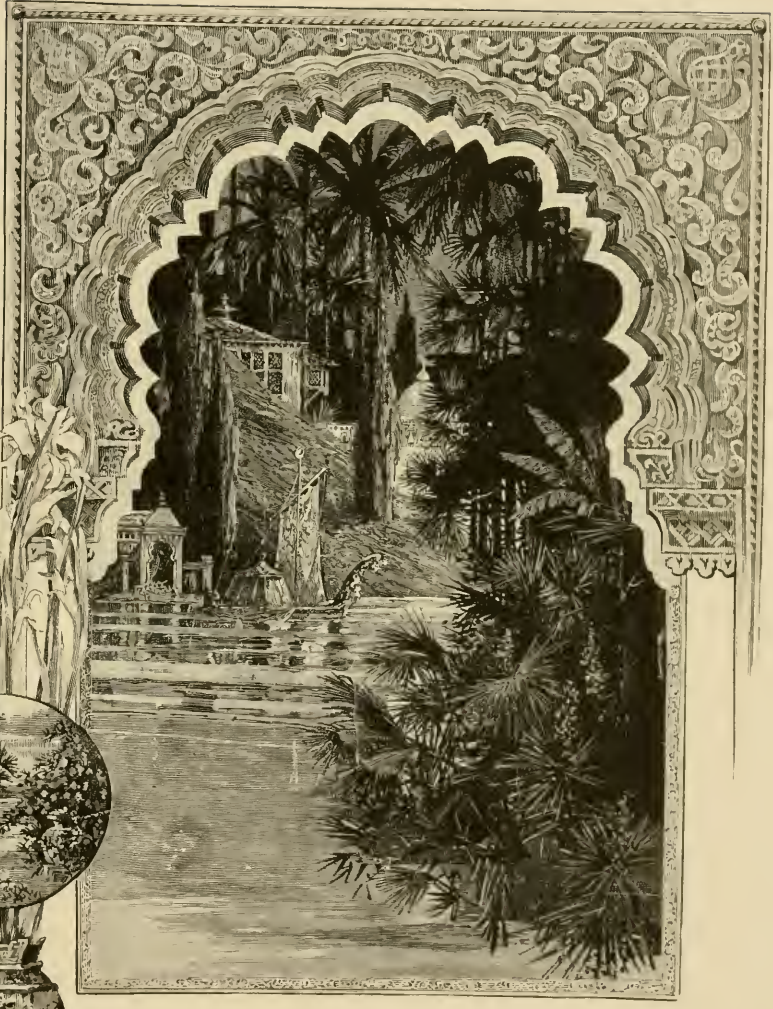
Often where clear-stemm'd platans guard  
The outlet, did I turn away  
The boat-head down a broad canal  
From the main river sluiced, where all  
The sloping of the moon-lit sward  
Was damask-work, and deep inlay  
Of braided blooms unmown, which crept  
Adown to where the water slept.  
A goodly place, a goodly time,  
For it was in the golden prime  
Of good Haroun Alraschid.

A motion from the river won  
Ridged the smooth level, bearing on  
My shallop thro' the star-strown calm,  
Until another night in night  
I enter'd, from the clearer light,  
Imbower'd vaults of pillar'd palm,  
Imprisoning sweets, which, as they clomb  
Heavenward, were stay'd beneath the dome  
Of hollow boughs. — A goodly time,  
For it was in the golden prime  
Of good Haroun Alraschid.



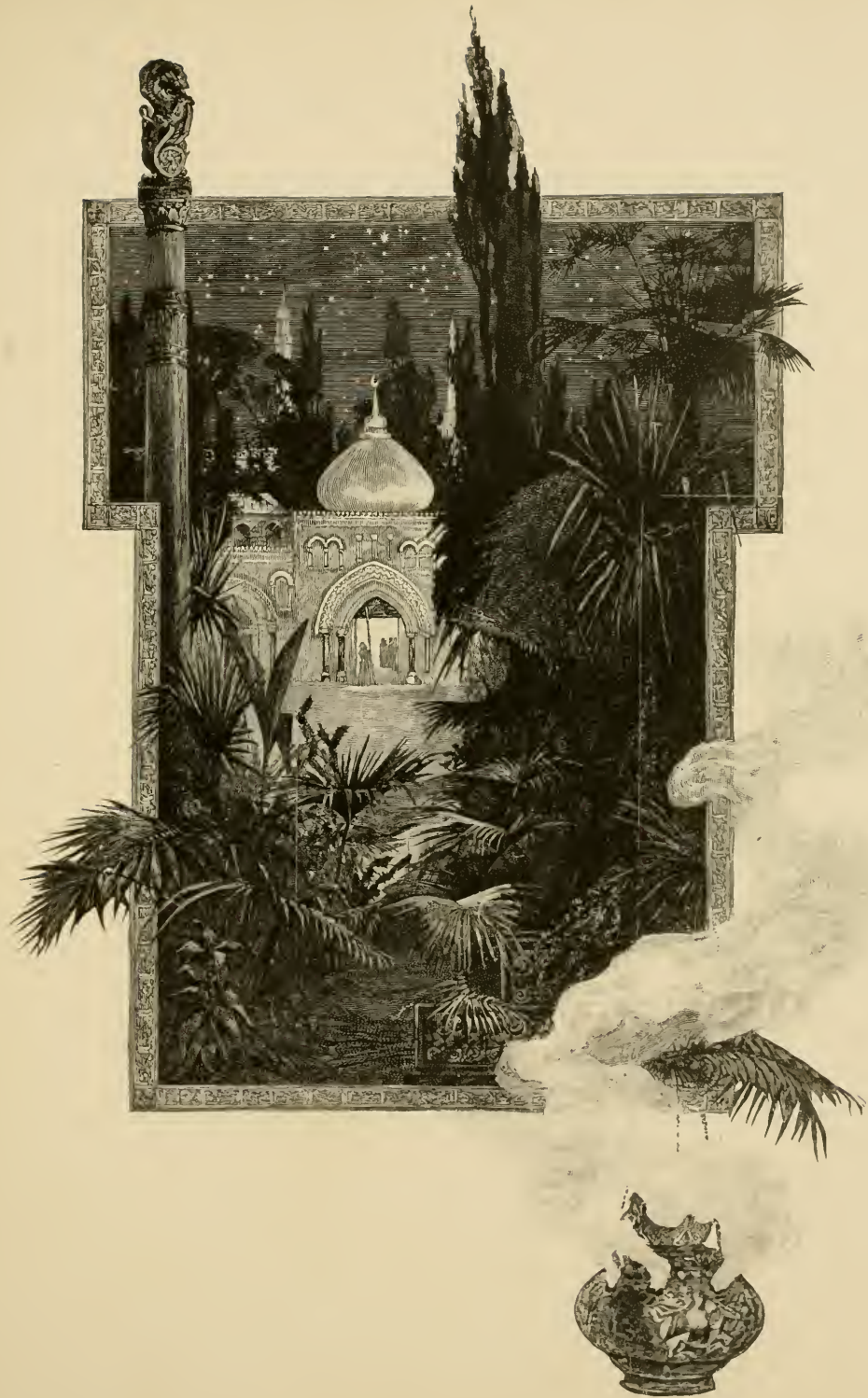
Still onward; and the clear canal  
Is rounded to as clear a lake.  
From the green rivage many a fall  
Of diamond rillets musical,  
Thro' little crystal arches low  
Down from the central fountain's flow  
Fall'n silver-chiming, seemed to shake  
The sparkling flints beneath the prow.  
    A goodly place, a goodly time,  
    For it was in the golden prime  
    Of good Haroun Alraschid.

Above thro' many a bowery turn  
A walk with vary-colour'd shells  
Wander'd engrain'd. On either side  
All round about the fragrant marge  
From fluted vase, and brazen urn  
In order, eastern flowers large,  
Some dropping low their crimson bells  
Half-closed, and others studded wide  
    With disks and tiars, fed the time  
    With odour in the golden prime  
    Of good Haroun Alraschid.



Far off, and where the lemon grove  
In closest coverture upsprung,  
The living airs of middle night  
Died round the bulbul as he sung;  
Not he: but something which possess'd  
The darkness of the world, delight,  
Life, anguish, death, immortal love,  
Ceasing not, mingled, unrepress'd,  
    Apart from place, withholding time,  
    But flattering the golden prime  
    Of good Haroun Alraschid.

Black the garden-bowers and grots  
Slumber'd: the solemn palms were ranged  
Above, unwoo'd of summer wind:  
A sudden splendour from behind  
Flush'd all the leaves with rich gold-green,  
And, flowing rapidly between  
Their interspaces, counterchanged  
The level lake with diamond-plots  
    Of dark and bright. A lovely time,  
    For it was in the golden prime  
    Of good Haroun Alraschid.



Dark-blue the deep sphere overhead,  
Distinct with vivid stars inlaid,  
Grew darker from that under-flame:  
So, leaping lightly from the boat,  
With silver anchor left afloat,  
In marvel whence that glory came  
Upon me, as in sleep I sank  
In cool soft turf upon the bank.  
Entranced with that place and time,  
So worthy of the golden prime  
Of good Haroun Alraschid.

Thence thro' the garden I was drawn—  
A realm of pleasance, many a mound,  
And many a shadow-chequer'd lawn  
Full of the city's stilly sound,  
And deep myrrh-thickets blowing round  
The stately cedar, tamarisks,  
Thick rosaries of scented thorn,  
Tall orient shrubs, and obelisks  
Graven with emblems of the time,  
In honour of the golden prime  
Of good Haroun Alraschid.





With dazed vision unawares  
From the long alley's latticed shade  
Emerged, I came upon the great  
Pavilion of the Caliphat.  
Right to the carven cedarn doors,  
Flung inward over spangled floors,  
Broad-based flights of marble stairs  
Ran up with golden balustrade,  
    After the fashion of the time,  
    And humour of the golden prime  
    Of good Haroun Alraschid.

The fourscore windows all alight  
As with the quintessence of flame,  
A million tapers flaring bright  
From twisted silvers look'd to shame  
The hollow-vaulted dark, and stream'd  
Upon the mooned domes aloof  
In inmost Bagdat, till there seem'd  
Hundreds of crescents on the roof  
    Of night new-risen, that marvellous time  
    To celebrate the golden prime  
    Of good Haroun Alraschid.

Then stole I up, and trancedly  
Gazed on the Persian girl alone,  
Serene with argent-lidded eyes  
Amorous, and lashes like to rays  
Of darkness, and a brow of pearl  
Tressed with redolent ebony,  
In many a dark delicious curl,  
Flowing beneath her rose-hued zone;  
    The sweetest lady of the time,  
    Well worthy of the golden prime  
    Of good Haroun Alraschid.

Six columns, three on either side,  
Pure silver, underpropt a rich  
Throne of the massive ore, from which  
Down-droop'd, in many a floating fold,  
Engarlanded and diaper'd  
With inwrought flowers, a cloth of gold.  
Thereon, his deep eye laughter-stirr'd  
With merriment of kingly pride,  
    Sole star of all that place and time,  
    I saw him—in his golden prime,  
    THE GOOD HAROUN ALRASCHID.

## THE DYING SWAN.

---

### I.

THE plain was grassy, wild and bare,  
Wide, wild, and open to the air,  
Which had built up everywhere  
    An under-roof of doleful gray.  
With an inner voice the river ran,  
Adown it floated a dying swan,  
    And loudly did lament.  
It was the middle of the day,  
Ever the weary wind went on,  
    And took the reed-tops as it went.

### II.

Some blue peaks in the distance rose,  
And white against the cold-white sky,  
Shone out their crowning snows.  
One willow over the river wept,  
And shook the wave as the wind did sigh;  
Above in the wind was the swallow,  
    Chasing itself at its own wild will,  
    And far thro' the marish green and still  
The tangled water-courses slept,  
Shot over with purple, and green, and yellow.



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III.

The wild swan's death-hymn took the soul  
Of that waste place with joy  
Hidden in sorrow: at first to the ear  
The warble was low, and full and clear;  
And floating about the under-sky,  
Prevailing in weakness, the coronach stole  
Sometimes afar, and sometimes anear;  
But anon her awful jubilant voice,  
With music strange and manifold,  
Flow'd forth on a carol free and bold;  
As when a mighty people rejoice  
With shawms, and with cymbals, and harps of gold,  
And the tumult of their acclaim is roll'd  
Thro' the open gates of the city afar,  
To the shepherd who watcheth the evening star.  
And the creeping mosses and clambering weeds,  
And the willow-branches hoar and dank,  
And the wavy swell of the soughing reeds,  
And the wave-worn horns of the echoing bank,  
And the silvery marish flowers that throng  
The desolate creeks and pools among,  
Were flooded over with eddying song.



## NOTHING WILL DIE.

---

WHEN will the stream be weary of flowing  
Under my eye?

When will the wind be weary of blowing  
Over the sky?

When will the clouds be weary of fleeting?

When will the heart be weary of beating?  
And nature die?

Never, oh! never, nothing will die;

The stream flows,

The wind blows,

The cloud fleets,

The heart beats,

Nothing will die.





Nothing will die;  
All things will change  
Thro' eternity.  
'Tis the world's winter;  
Autumn and summer  
Are gone long ago;  
Earth is dry to the centre,  
But spring, a new comer,  
A spring rich and strange,  
Shall make the winds blow  
Round and round,  
Thro' and thro',  
    Here and there,  
    Till the air  
And the ground  
Shall be fill'd with life anew.

The world was never made;  
It will change, but it will not fade.  
So let the wind range;  
For even and morn  
    Ever will be  
    Thro' eternity.  
Nothing was born;  
Nothing will die;  
All things will change.







MARIANA IN THE SOUTH

## MARIANA IN THE SOUTH.

WITH one black shadow at its feet,  
The house thro' all the level shines,  
Close-latticed to the brooding heat,  
And silent in its dusty vines;  
A faint-blue ridge upon the right,  
An empty river-bed before,  
And shallows on a distant shore,  
In glaring sand and inlets bright.  
But 'Ave Mary,' made she moan,  
And 'Ave Mary,' night and morn,  
And 'Ah,' she sang, 'to be all alone,  
To live forgotten, and love forlorn.'

She, as her carol sadder grew,  
From brow and bosom slowly down  
Thro' rosy taper fingers drew  
Her streaming curls of deepest brown  
To left and right, and made appear  
Still-lighted in a secret shrine,  
Her melancholy eyes divine,  
The home of woe without a tear,  
And 'Ave Mary,' was her moan,  
'Madonna, sad is night and morn,'  
And 'Ah,' she sang, 'to be all alone,  
To live forgotten, and love forlorn.'



Till all the crimson changed, and past  
    Into deep orange o'er the sea,  
Low on her knees herself she cast,  
    Before Our Lady murmur'd she;  
Complaining, 'Mother, give me grace  
    To help me of my weary load.'  
And on the liquid mirror glow'd  
The clear perfection of her face.

    'Is this the form,' she made her moan,  
        'That won his praises night and morn?'  
And 'Ah,' she said, 'but I wake alone,  
    I sleep forgotten, I wake forlorn.'

Nor bird would sing, nor lamb would bleat,  
    Nor any cloud would cross the vault,  
But day increased from heat to heat,  
    On stony drought and steaming salt;  
Till now at noon she slept again,  
    And seem'd knee-deep in mountain grass,  
And heard her native breezes pass,  
And runlets babbling down the glen.  
    She breathed in sleep a lower moan,  
        And murmuring, as at night and morn,  
She thought, 'My spirit is here alone,  
    Walks forgotten, and is forlorn.'





Dreaming, she knew it was a dream:  
She felt he was and was not there.  
She woke: the babble of the stream  
Fell, and, without, the steady glare  
Shrank one sick willow sere and small.  
The river-bed was dusty-white;  
And all the furnace of the light  
Struck up against the blinding wall.  
She whisper'd, with a stifled moan  
More inward than at night or morn,  
'Sweet Mother, let me not here alone  
Live forgotten and die forlorn.'

And, rising, from her bosom drew  
Old letters, breathing of her worth,  
For 'Love,' they said, 'must needs be true,  
To what is loveliest upon earth.'  
An image seem'd to pass the door,  
To look at her with slight, and say  
'But now thy beauty flows away,  
So be alone for evermore.'  
'O cruel heart,' she changed her tone,  
'And cruel love, whose end is scorn,  
Is this the end to be left alone,  
To live forgotten, and die forlorn?'



But sometimes in the falling day  
    An image seem'd to pass the door,  
To look into her eyes and say,  
    'But thou shalt be alone no more.'  
And flaming downward over all  
    From heat to heat the day decreased,  
And slowly rounded to the east  
The one black shadow from the wall.  
    'The day to night,' she made her moan.  
    'The day to night, the night to morn,  
And day and night I am left alone  
    To live forgotten, and love forlorn.'

At eve a dry cicala sung,  
    There came a sound as of the sea:  
Backward the lattice-blind she flung,  
    And lean'd upon the balcony,  
There all in spaces rosy-bright  
    Large Hesper glitter'd on her tears,  
And deepening thro' the silent spheres  
Heaven over Heaven rose the night.  
    And weeping then she made her moan,  
    'The night comes on that knows not morn,  
When I shall cease to be all alone,  
    To live forgotten, and love forlorn.'









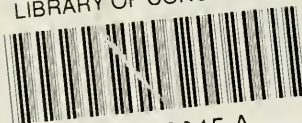








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