

A Poem of
Letitia Elizabeth Landon
(L. E. L.)
in
Forget Me Not, 1830

compiled
by
Peter J. Bolton

The Rose and Laurel Leaf

This poem is transcribed from Landon. Poems from the Annuals, by F. J. Sypher

THE ROSE AND LAUREL LEAF

Où va
Et la feuille de la rose, et la feuille du laurier?

On thy path of music whither
 May, sweet wind, thy wandering be?
And say, what dost thou bring hither
 On thy azure wings with thee?

My wild course has been where, flowing,
 The silver fountains sing;
From the roses by them growing
 Floats a rose-leaf on my wing.

“Through a grove of laurel breathing
 Came a young poet’s song;
From the green boughs round him wreathing
 I bore a leaf along.”

For that leaf of crimson shining,
 That one of shadeless hue—
What art thou, sweet wind, designing?
 With those leaves what wilt thou do?

“The red leaf of the lover,
 That green leaf of the brave—
The fair earth I bear them over,
 To leave them on the grave.”