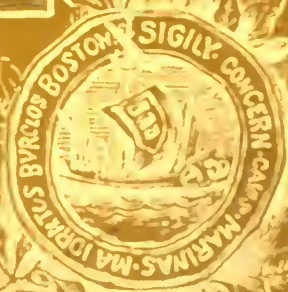


# Favorite Poems



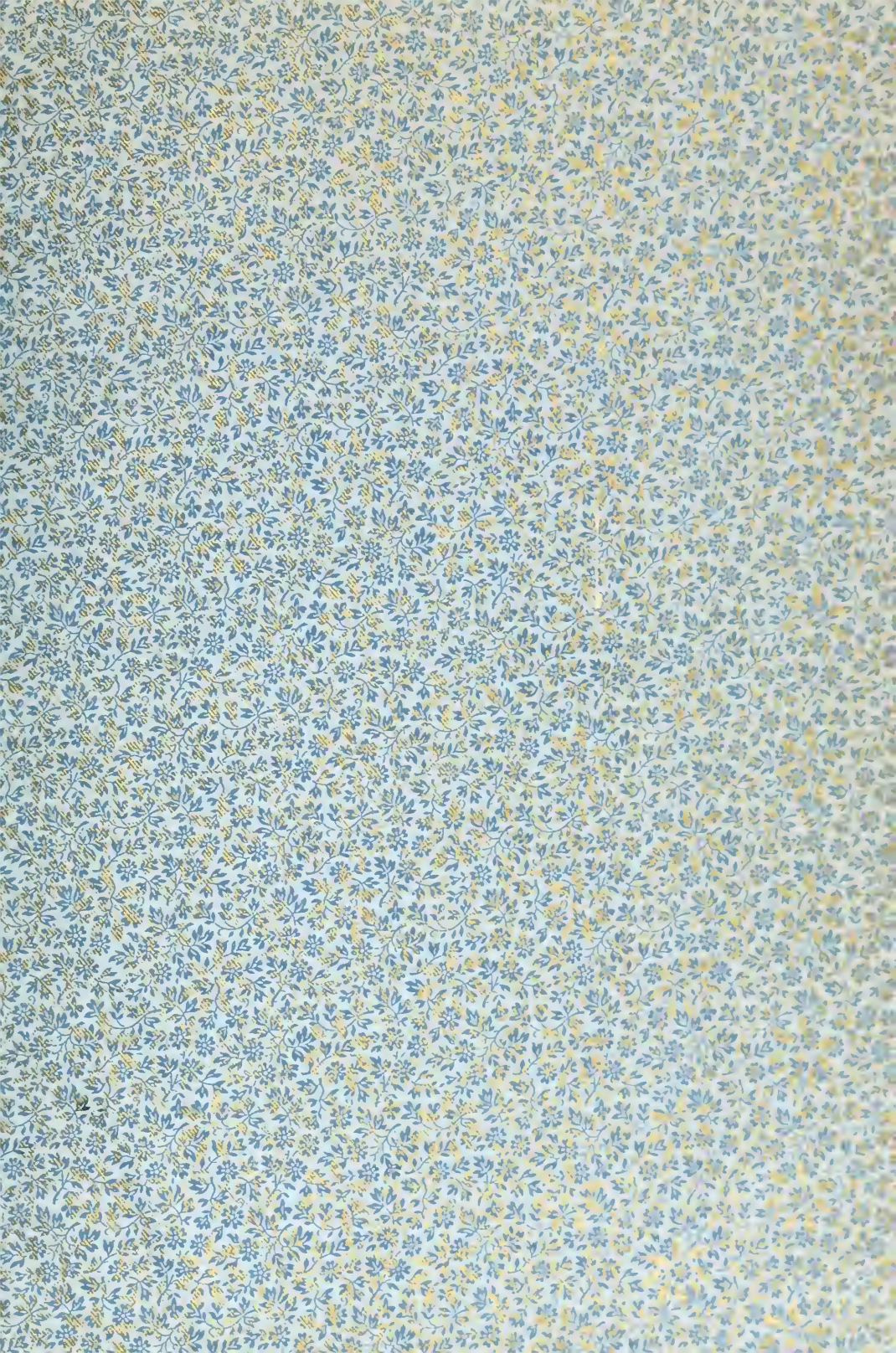
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Very sincerely yours  
Jean Ingelow



# FAVORITE POEMS.

By JEAN INGELOW.

SONGS OF SEVEN.      THE HIGH TIDE.

THE SHEPHERD LADY,

AND OTHER POEMS.

**Illustrated.**

BOSTON:  
ROBERTS BROTHERS.

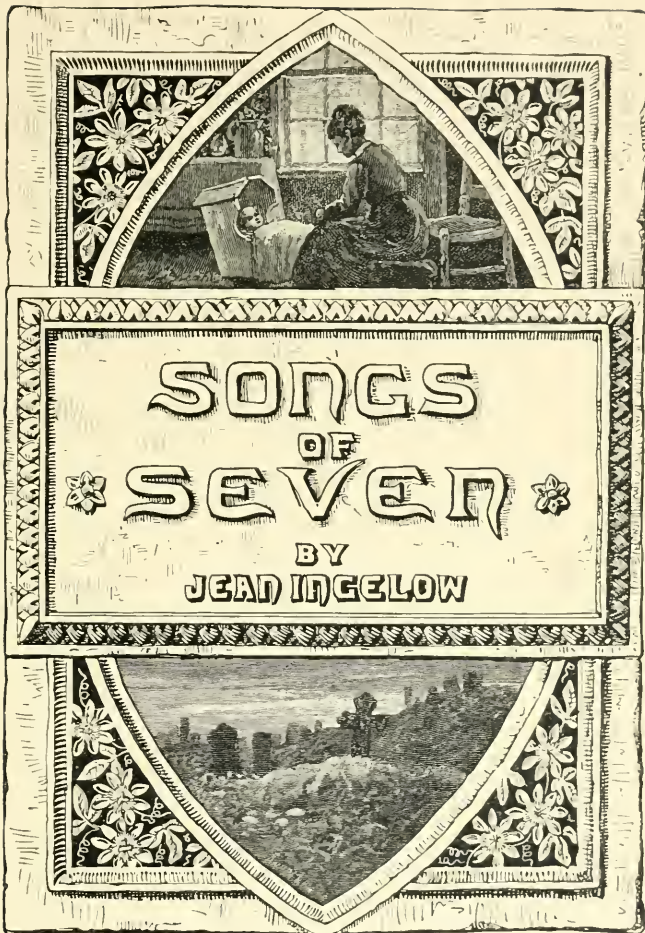
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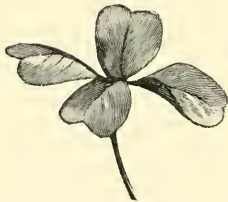
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# SONGS OF SEVEN.

BY  
JEAN INGELow.

Illustrated.



BOSTON:  
ROBERTS BROTHERS.  
1886.

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The full-page illustrations are designed by Miss C. A. NORTHAM and J. FRANCIS MURPHY; the titlepage, and those in the text, by EDMUND H. GARRETT. The book is prepared and the illustrations engraved by GEO. T. ANDREW.







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SEVEN TIMES ONE.



EXULTATION.



EXULTATION.

*"I am seven times one to-day."*



## SONGS OF SEVEN.

---

### *Seven times One.*

EXULTATION.

THERE'S no dew left on the daisies and  
clover  
There's no rain left in heaven ;  
I've said my "seven times" over and over,  
Seven times one are seven.

I am old, so old, I can write a letter ;  
My birthday lessons are done ;  
The lambs play always, they know no better ;  
They are only one times one.

*Songs of Seven.*

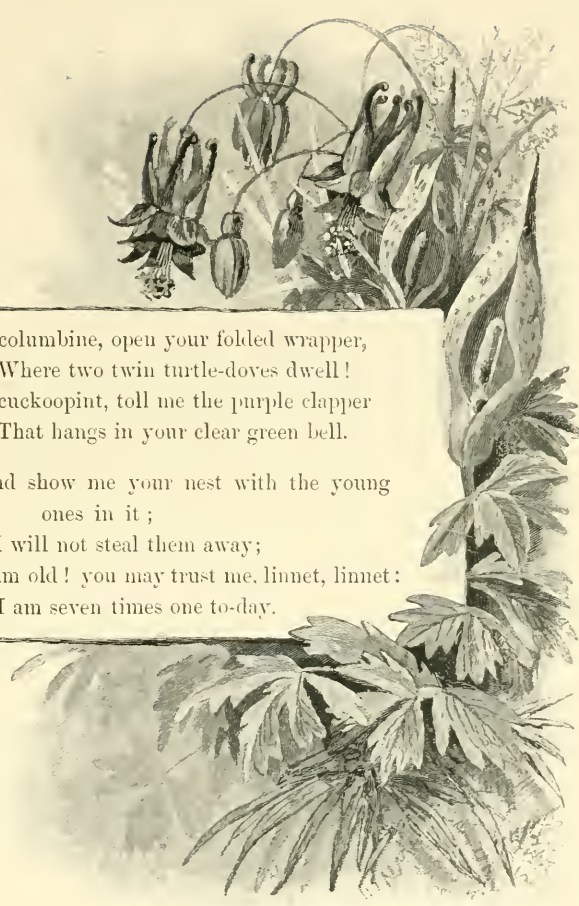
O moon! in the night I have seen you sailing  
 And shining so round and low;  
 You were bright! ah bright! but your light is  
 failing:  
 You are nothing now but a bow



You moon, have you done something wrong in  
 heaven  
 That God has hidden your face?  
 I hope if you have you will soon be forgiven,  
 And shine again in your place.

O velvet bee, you're a dusty fellow,  
 You've powdered your legs with gold!  
 O brave marsh marybuds, rich and yellow,  
 Give me your money to hold!





O columbine, open your folded wrapper,  
Where two twin turtle-doves dwell!  
O cuckoopint, toll me the purple clapper  
That hangs in your clear green bell.

And show me your nest with the young  
ones in it ;  
I will not steal them away ;  
I am old ! you may trust me, linnet, linnet :  
I am seven times one to-day.



SEVEN TIMES TWO.



ROMANCE.



ROMANCE.

*"I wait for my story—the birds cannot sing it."*



*Seven times Two.*

ROMANCE.

YOU bells in the steeple, ring, ring out your  
changes,  
How many soever they be,  
And let the brown meadow-lark's note as he  
ranges  
Come over, come over to me.

Yet bird's clearest carol by fall or by swelling  
No magical sense conveys,  
And bells have forgotten their old art of telling  
The fortune of future days.

“Turn again, turn again,” once they rang cheerily,  
While a boy listened alone ;  
Made his heart yearn again, musing so wearily  
All by himself on a stone.



Poor bells ! I forgive you ; your good days are over,  
And mine, they are yet to be ;  
No listening, no longing, shall aught, aught discover :  
You leave the story to me.

The foxglove shoots out of the green matted heather,  
Preparing her hoods of snow ;  
She was idle, and slept till the sunshiny weather :  
O children take long to grow.

I wish, and I wish that the spring would go faster,  
Nor long summer bide so late ;  
And I could grow on like the foxglove and aster,  
For some things are ill to wait.

I wait for the day when dear hearts shall discover,  
While dear hands are laid on my head ;  
“The child is a woman, the book may close over,  
For all the lessons are said.”

I wait for my story — the birds cannot sing it,  
Not one, as he sits on the tree ;  
The bells cannot ring it, but long years, O bring it !  
Such as I wish it to be.







SEVEN TIMES THREE.



LOVE.



LOVE.

*"Dark, dark was the garden, I saw not the gate."*



*Seven times Three.*

LOVE.

I LEANED out of window, I smelt the white  
    clover,  
    Dark, dark was the garden, I saw not the gate ;  
“ Now, if there be footsteps, he comes. my one  
    lover —  
    Hush, nightingale, hush ! O, sweet nightingale,  
    wait  
        Till I listen and hear  
        If a step draweth near,  
        For my love he is late !

“The skies in the darkness stoop nearer and nearer,  
 A cluster of stars hangs like fruit in the tree,  
 The fall of the water comes sweeter, comes clearer :  
 To what art thou listening, and what dost thou see?  
 Let the star-clusters glow,  
 Let the sweet waters flow,  
 And cross quickly to me.



“You night-moths that hover where honey brims  
 over  
 From sycamore blossoms, or settle or sleep :  
 You glow-worms, shine out, and the pathway dis-  
 cover  
 To him that comes darkling along the rough steep.  
 Ah, my sailor, make haste,  
 For the time runs to waste,  
 And my love lieth deep —

“Too deep for swift telling; and yet, my one lover  
I’ve conned thee an answer, it waits thee to-night.”  
By the sycamore passed he, and through the white  
clover,  
Then all the sweet speech I had fashioned took  
flight;  
But I’ll love him more, more  
Than e’er wife loved before,  
Be the days dark or bright.





SEVEN TIMES FOUR.



MATERNITY.



MATERNITY.

*"Heigh-ho! daisies and buttercups!  
Mother shall thread them a daisy chain."*





*Seven times Four.*

MATERNITY.

**H**EIGH-HO! daisies and buttercups,  
Fair yellow daffodils, stately and tall!  
When the wind wakes how they rock in the grasses,  
And dance with the cuckoo-buds slender and  
small!  
Here's two bonny boys, and here's mother's own  
lasses,  
Eager to gather them all.

Heigh-ho! daisies and buttercups!  
 Mother shall thread them a daisy chain;  
 Sing them a song of the pretty hedge-sparrow,  
 That loved her brown little ones, loved them  
 full fain;  
 Sing, "Heart, thou art wide though the house be  
 but narrow," —  
 Sing once, and sing it again.



Heigh-ho! daisies and buttercups,  
 Sweet wagging cowslips, they bend and they bow;  
 A ship sails afar over warm ocean waters,  
 And haply one musing doth stand at her prow.  
 O bonny brown sons, and O sweet little daughters,  
 Maybe he thinks on you now!

Heigh-ho! daisies and buttercups,  
Fair yellow daffodils, stately and tall —  
A sunshiny world full of laughter and leisure,  
And fresh hearts unconscious of sorrow and thrall!  
Send down on their pleasure smiles passing its measure,  
God that is over us all!





SEVEN TIMES FIVE.



WIDOWHOOD.



WIDOWHOOD.

*"I lift mine eyes, and what to see  
But a world happy and fair!"*



*Seven times Five.*

WIDOWHOOD.

**I** SLEEP and rest, my heart makes  
moan  
Before I am well awake ;  
“Let me bleed ! O let me alone,  
Since I must not break !”

For children wake, though fathers  
sleep  
With a stone at foot and at head :  
O sleepless God, for ever keep,  
Keep both living and dead !



I lift mine eyes, and what to see  
 But a world happy and fair!  
 I have not wished it to mourn with  
 me,—  
 Comfort is not there.



O what anear but golden brooms,  
 And a waste of reedy rills!  
 O what afar but the fine glooms  
 On the rare blue hills!

I shall not die, but live forlore —  
 How bitter it is to part!  
 O to meet thee, my love, once more!  
 O my heart, my heart!

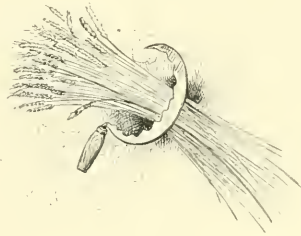




No more to hear, no more to see !  
O that an echo might wake  
And waft one note of thy psalm to me  
Ere my heart strings break !

I should know it how faint soe'er,  
And with angel-voices blent ;  
O once to feel thy spirit anear,  
I could be content.

Or once between the gates of gold,  
While an entering angel trod,  
But once — thee sitting to behold  
On the hills of God !





SEVEN TIMES SIX.



GIVING IN MARRIAGE.



GIVING IN MARRIAGE.

*"Thy mother's tenderest words are said,  
Thy face no more she views."*



*Seven times Six.*

GIVING IN MARRIAGE.

**T**O bear, to nurse, to rear,  
To watch, and then to lose:  
To see my bright ones disappear,  
Drawn up like morning dews—  
To bear, to nurse, to rear,  
To watch, and then to lose:  
This have I done when God drew  
near  
Among his own to choose.

To hear, to heed, to wed,  
 And with thy lord depart  
 In tears that he, as soon as shed,  
 Will let no longer smart. —  
 To hear, to heed, to wed,  
 This while thou didst I smiled,  
 For now it was not God who said,  
 “Mother, give ME thy child.”



O fond, O fool, and blind,  
 To God I gave with tears;  
 But when a man like grace would find,  
 My soul put by her fears.  
 O fond, O fool, and blind,  
 God guards in happier spheres;  
 That man will guard where he did bind  
 Is hope for unknown years.

To hear, to heed, to wed,  
    Fair lot that maidens choose,  
Thy mother's tenderest words are said,  
    Thy face no more she views ;  
Thy mother's lot, my dear,  
    She doth in naught accuse ;  
Her lot to bear, to nurse, to rear,  
    To love — and then to lose.







SEVEN TIMES SEVEN.

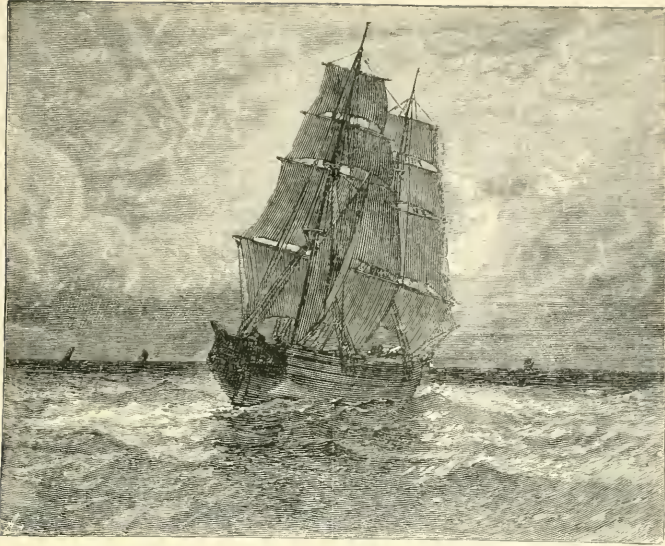


LONGING FOR HOME.



LONGING FOR HOME.

*"Can I call that home where I anchor yet,  
Though my good man has sailed?"*



*Seven times Seven.*

LONGING FOR HOME.

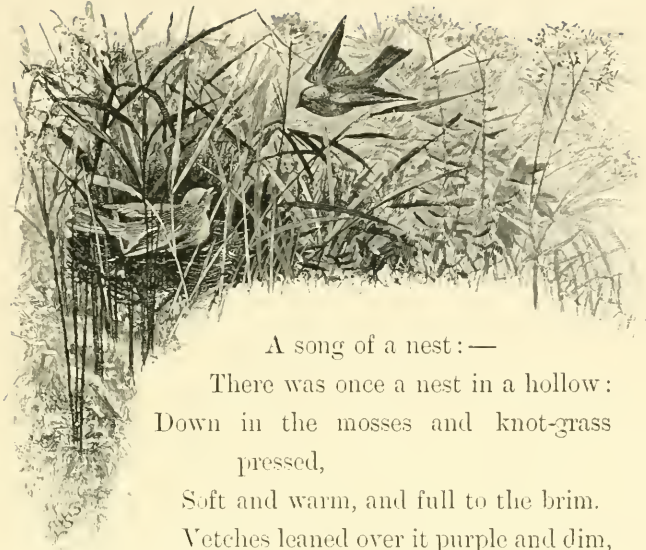
A SONG of a boat:—

There was once a boat on a billow:  
Lightly she rocked to her port remote,  
And the foam was white in her wake like snow,  
And her frail mast bowed when the breeze would  
blow,  
And bent like a wand of willow.

I shaded mine eyes one day when a boat  
Went curtseying over the billow,  
I marked her course till a dancing mote  
She faded out on the moonlit foam,  
And I stayed behind in the dear loved home ;  
And my thoughts all day were about the boat,  
And my dreams upon the pillow.



I pray you hear my song of a boat,  
For it is but short :—  
My boat, you shall find none fairer afloat,  
In river or port.  
Long I looked out for the lad she bore,  
On the open desolate sea,  
And I think he sailed to the heavenly shore,  
For he came not back to me —  
Ah me !

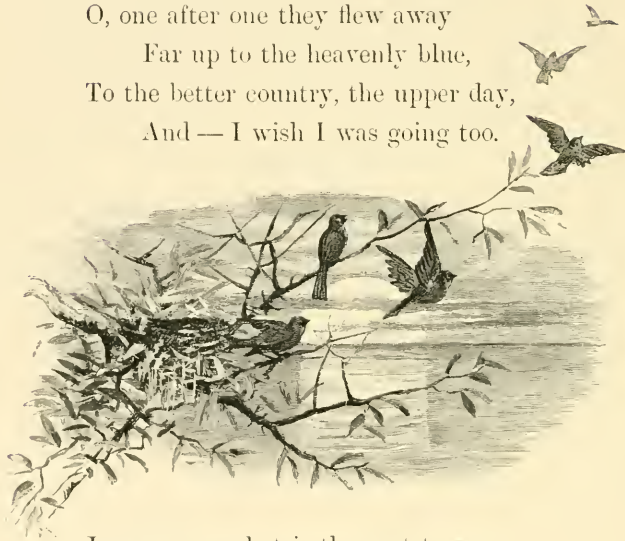


A song of a nest : —

There was once a nest in a hollow :  
Down in the mosses and knot-grass  
pressed,  
Soft and warm, and full to the brim.  
Vetches leaned over it purple and dim,  
With buttercup buds to follow.

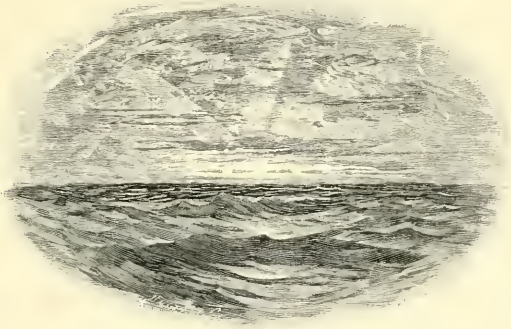
I pray you hear my song of a nest,  
For it is not long : —  
You shall never light, in a summer quest  
The bushes among —  
Shall never light on a prouder sitter,  
A fairer nestful, nor ever know  
A softer sound than their tender twitter,  
That wind-like did come and go.

I had a nestful once of my own,  
 Ah happy, happy I!  
 Right dearly I loved them: but when they  
     were grown  
 They spread out their wings to fly.  
 O, one after one they flew away  
     Far up to the heavenly blue,  
 To the better country, the upper day,  
     And — I wish I was going too.



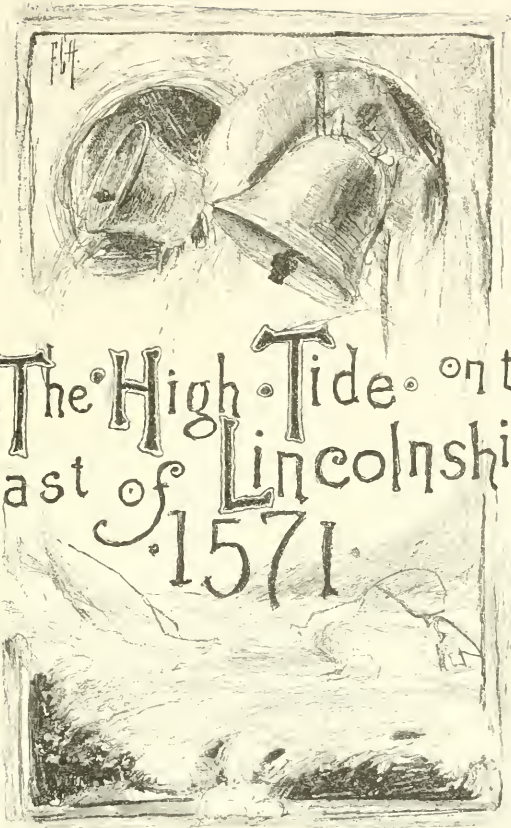
I pray you, what is the nest to me,  
     My empty nest?  
 And what is the shore where I stood to see  
     My boat sail down to the west?  
 Can I call that home where I anchor yet,  
     Though my good man has sailed?

Can I call that home where my nest was set,  
Now all its hope hath failed?  
Nay, but the port where my sailor went,  
And the land where my nestlings be, —  
There is the home where my thoughts are sent  
The only home for me —  
Ah me!



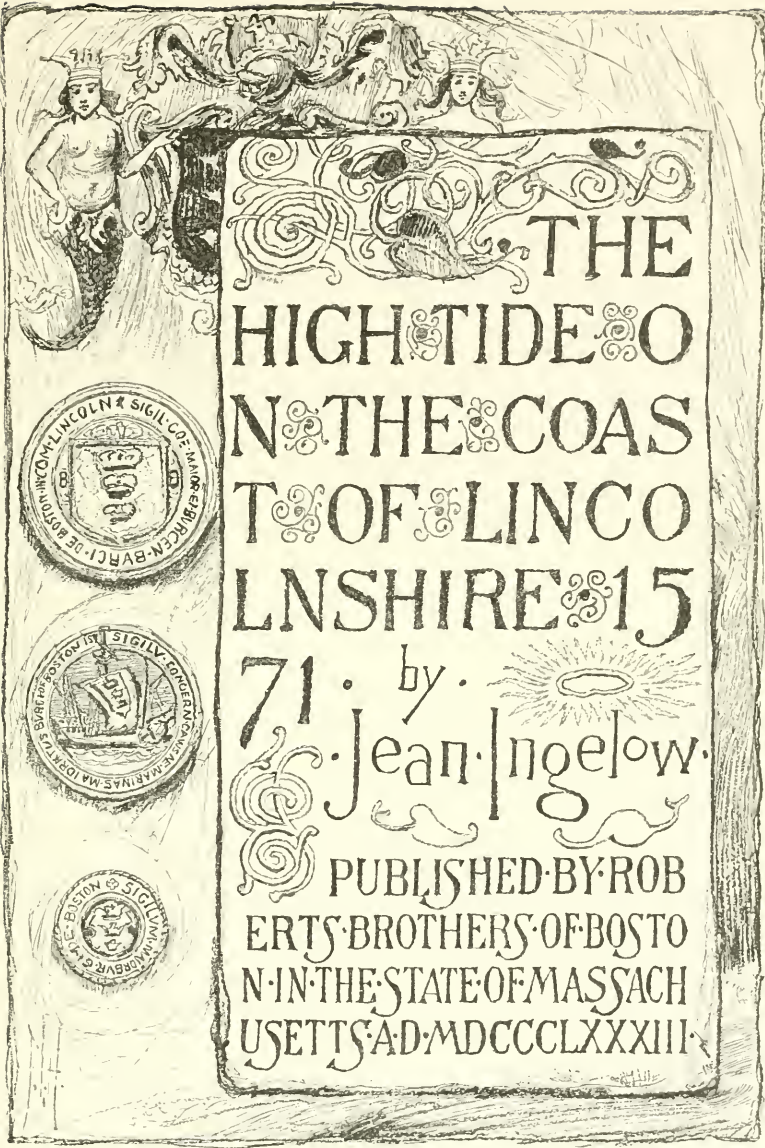






The High Tide on the  
coast of Lincolnshire.  
1571.





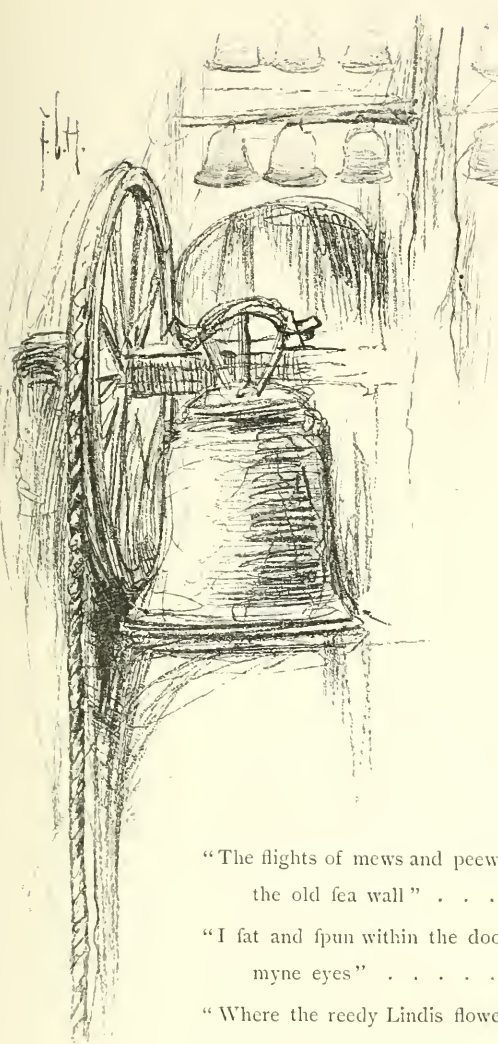
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71. by.   
Jean Ingelow.

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# List of Illustrations

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Under the Supervision  
of

GEORGE T. ANDREW.



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OLD BOSTON, ENGLAND.





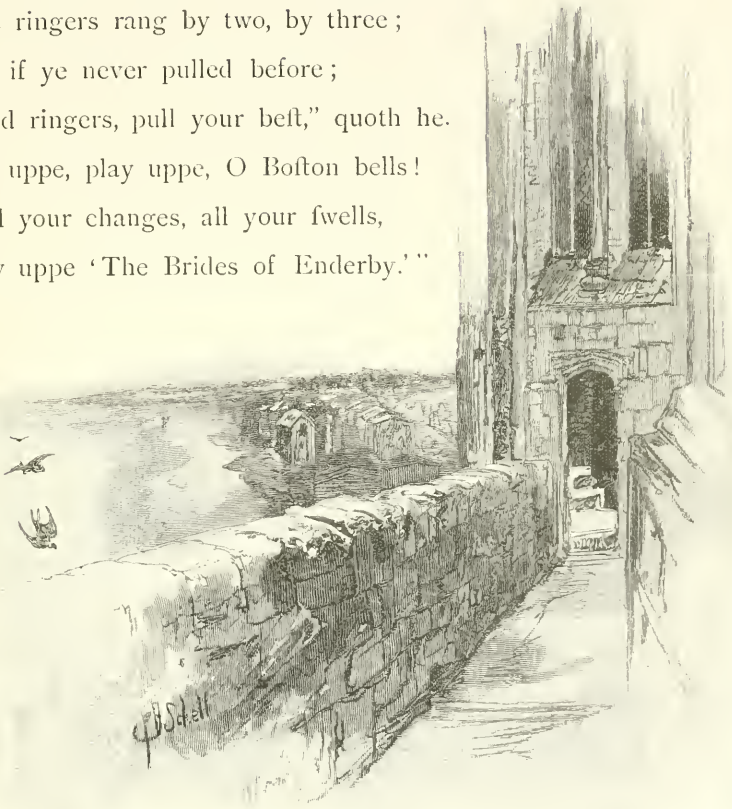


*St. Botolph Church.*



## The High Tide.

THE old mayor climbed the belfry tower,  
The ringers rang by two, by three ;  
“ Pull, if ye never pulled before ;  
Good ringers, pull your best,” quoth he.  
“ Play uppe, play uppe, O Boston bells !  
Ply all your changes, all your fwells,  
Play uppe ‘ The Brides of Enderby.’ ”







*“ ‘Good ringers, pull your best,’ quoth he.”*



Men fay it was a stolen tyde—

The Lord that fent it, He knows all;

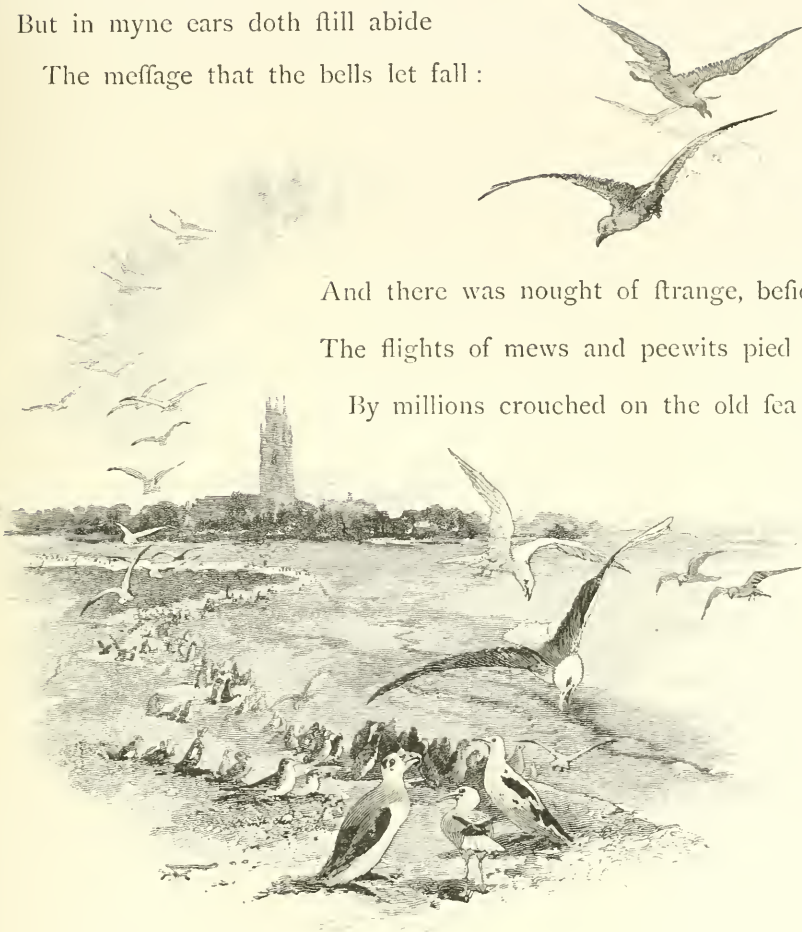
But in myne ears doth still abide

The meffage that the bells let fall:

And there was nought of ftrange, befide

The flights of mewes and peewits pied

By millions crouched on the old fea wall.







I fat and spun within the doore,  
My thread brake off, I raifed myne eyes;



The level sun, like ruddy ore,  
Lay sinking in the barren skies ;  
And dark against day's golden death  
She moved where Lindis wandereth,  
My fonne's faire wife, Elizabeth.





“Cufha ! Cufha ! Cufha !” calling,  
Ere the early dews were falling,  
Farre away I heard her fong,  
“Cufha ! Cufha !” all along ;  
Where the reedy Lindis floweth,  
    Floweth, floweth,  
From the meads where melick groweth  
Faintly came her milking fong —



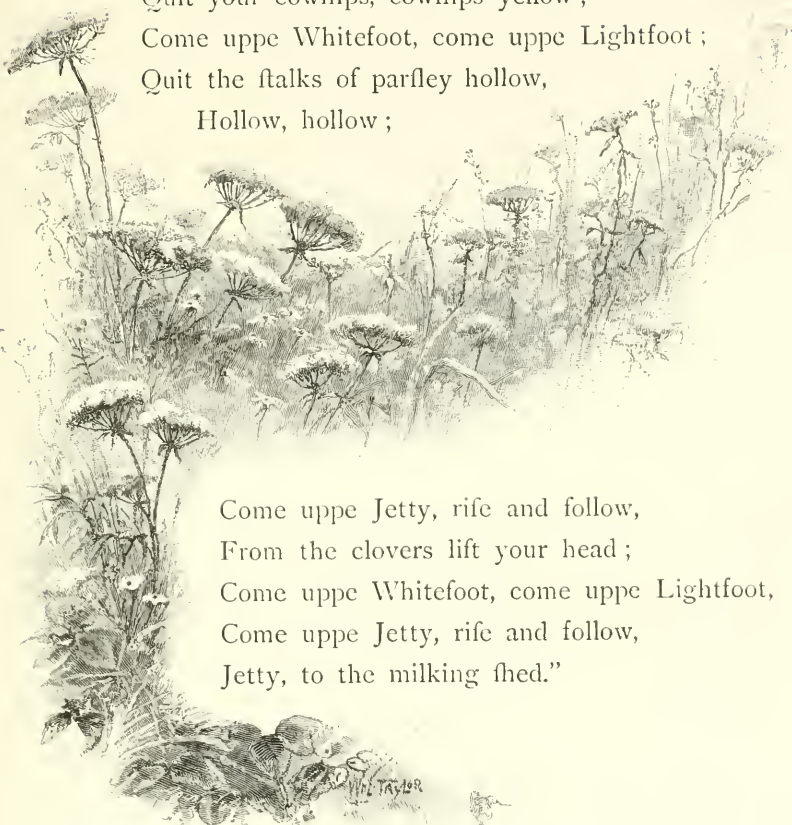




*"My sonne's faire wife, Elizabeth."*



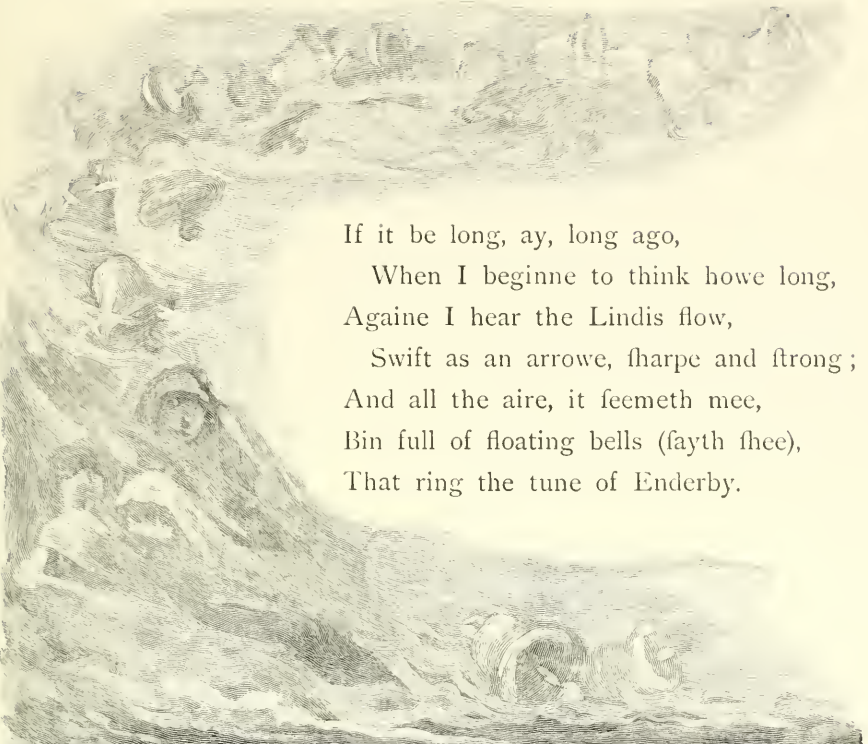
“Cusha! Cusha! Cusha!” calling,  
“For the dews will foone be falling;  
Leave your meadow grasses mellow,  
Mellow, mellow;  
Quit your cowslips, cowslips yellow;  
Come uppe Whitefoot, come uppe Lightfoot;  
Quit the stalks of parsley hollow,  
Hollow, hollow;



Come uppe Jetty, rise and follow,  
From the clovers lift your head;  
Come uppe Whitefoot, come uppe Lightfoot,  
Come uppe Jetty, rise and follow,  
Jetty, to the milking shed.”







If it be long, ay, long ago,  
When I beginne to think howe long,  
Againe I hear the Lindis flow,  
Swift as an arrowe, sharpe and strong;  
And all the aire, it seemeth mee,  
Bin full of floating bells (fayth thee),  
That ring the tune of Enderby.



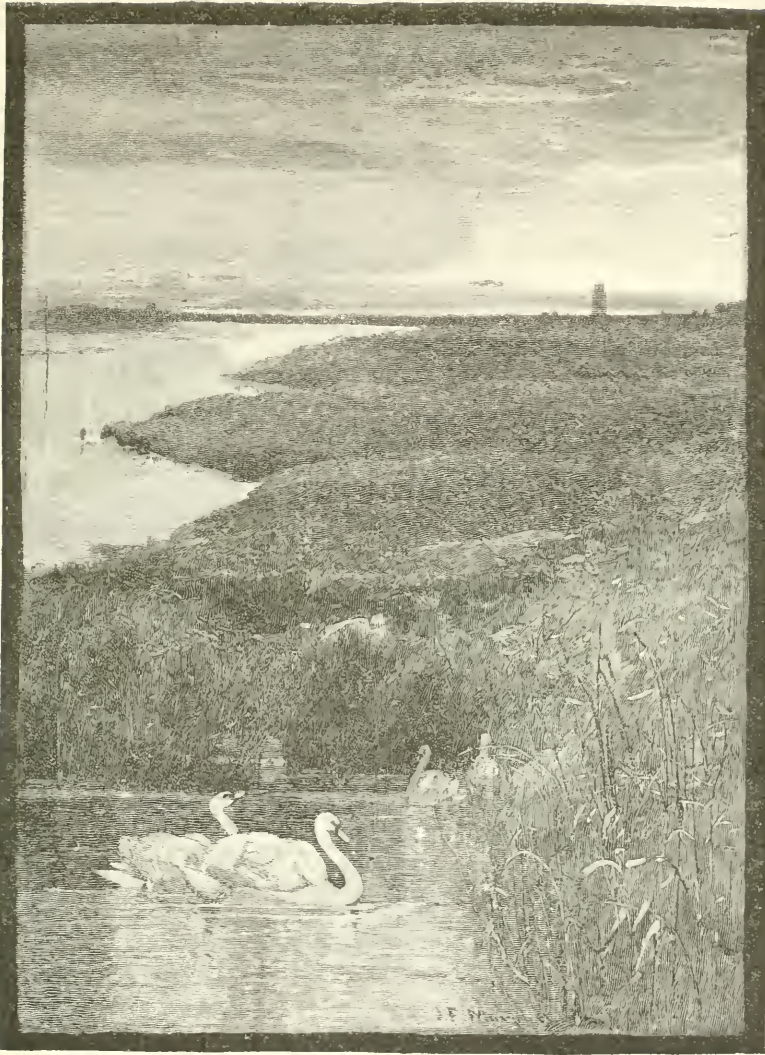


Alle fresh the level pasture lay,  
And not a shadowe mote be feene,  
Save where full fyve good miles away  
The steeple towered from out the greene ;  
And lo ! the great bell farre and wide  
Was heard in all the country side  
That Saturday at eventide.

The swanberds where their fedges are  
Moved on in sunfet's golden breath,  
The shepherde lads I heard afarre,  
And my sonne's wife, Elizabeth ;  
Till floating o'er the graffy sea  
Came downe that kyndly message free,  
The "Brides of Mavis Enderby."



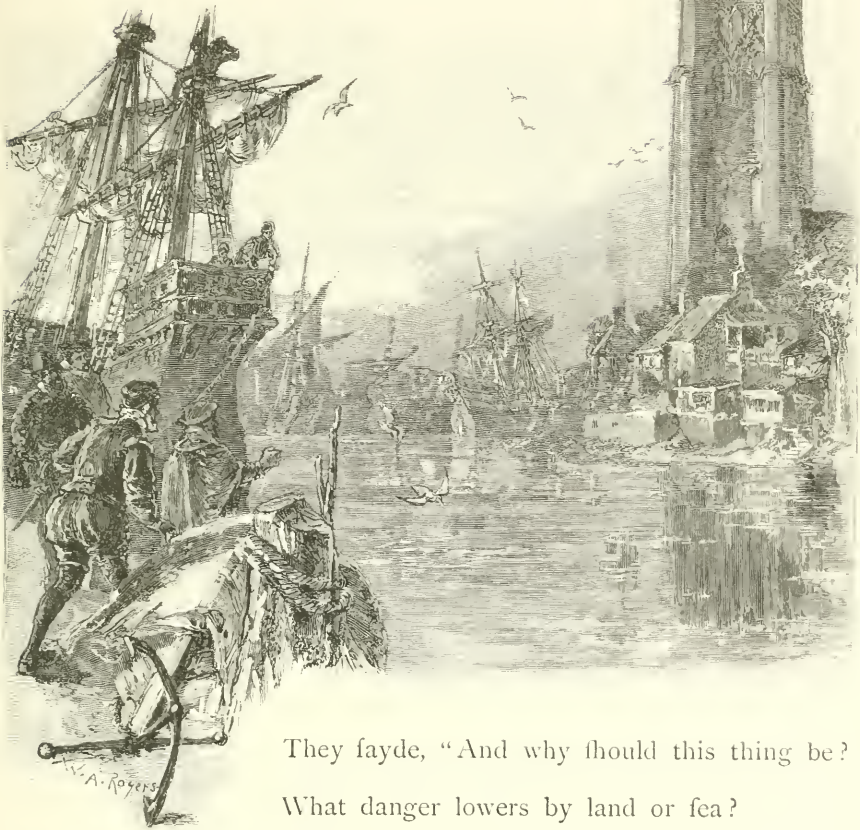




*“The swanherds where their fedges are  
Moved on in sunset’s golden breath.”*



Then some looked uppe into the sky,  
And all along where Lindis flows  
To where the goodly vessels lie,  
And where the lordly steeple flows.

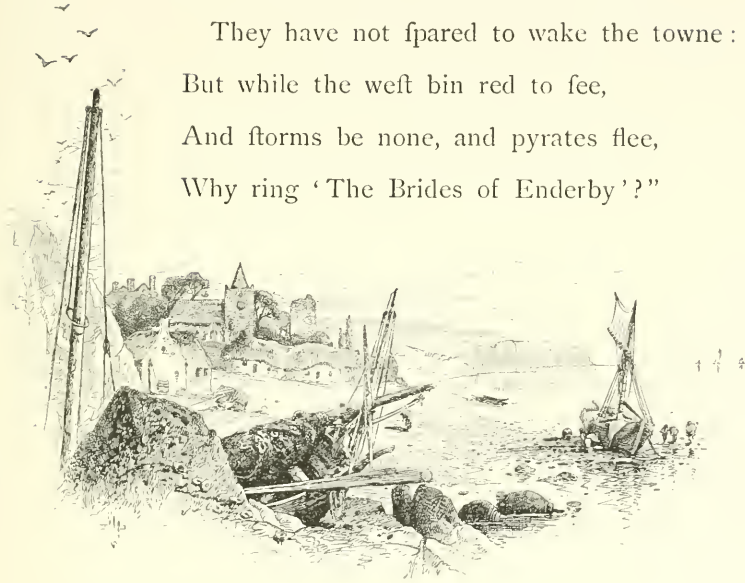


They fayde, "And why should this thing be?  
What danger lowers by land or fea?  
They ring the tune of Enderby!

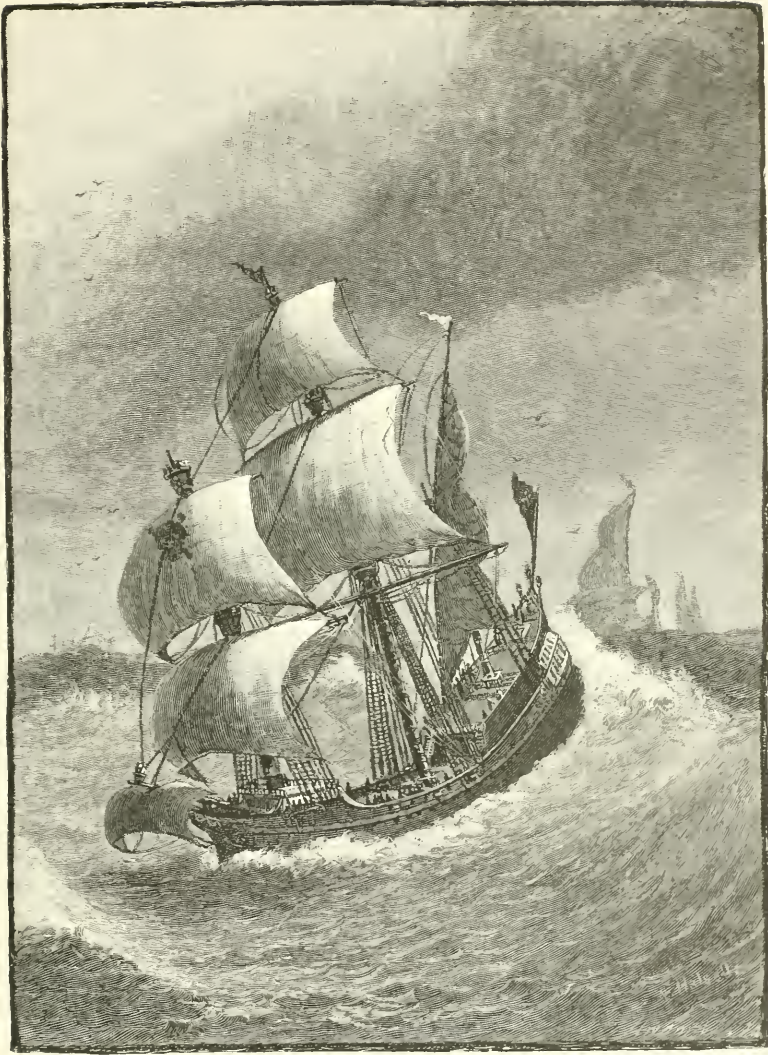




“ For evil news from Mablethorpe,  
Of pyrate galleys warping down ;  
For shippes ashore beyond the scorpe,  
They have not spared to wake the towne :  
But while the west bin red to see,  
And storms be none, and pyrates flee,  
Why ring ‘ The Brides of Enderby ? ’ ”







*“Of pirate galleys warping down.”*



I looked without, and lo! my fonne  
Came riding downe with might and main :  
He raifed a thout as he drew on,  
Till all the welkin rang again,  
“Elizabeth! Elizabeth!”  
(A fweeter woman ne’er drew breath  
Than my fonne’s wife, Elizabeth.)



“The old fea wall,” he cried, “is downe,  
The rising tide comes on apace,  
And boats adrift in yonder towne  
Go failing uppe the market-place.”  
He shook as one that looks on death :  
“God fave you, mother!” straight he faith ;  
“Where is my wife, Elizabeth?”

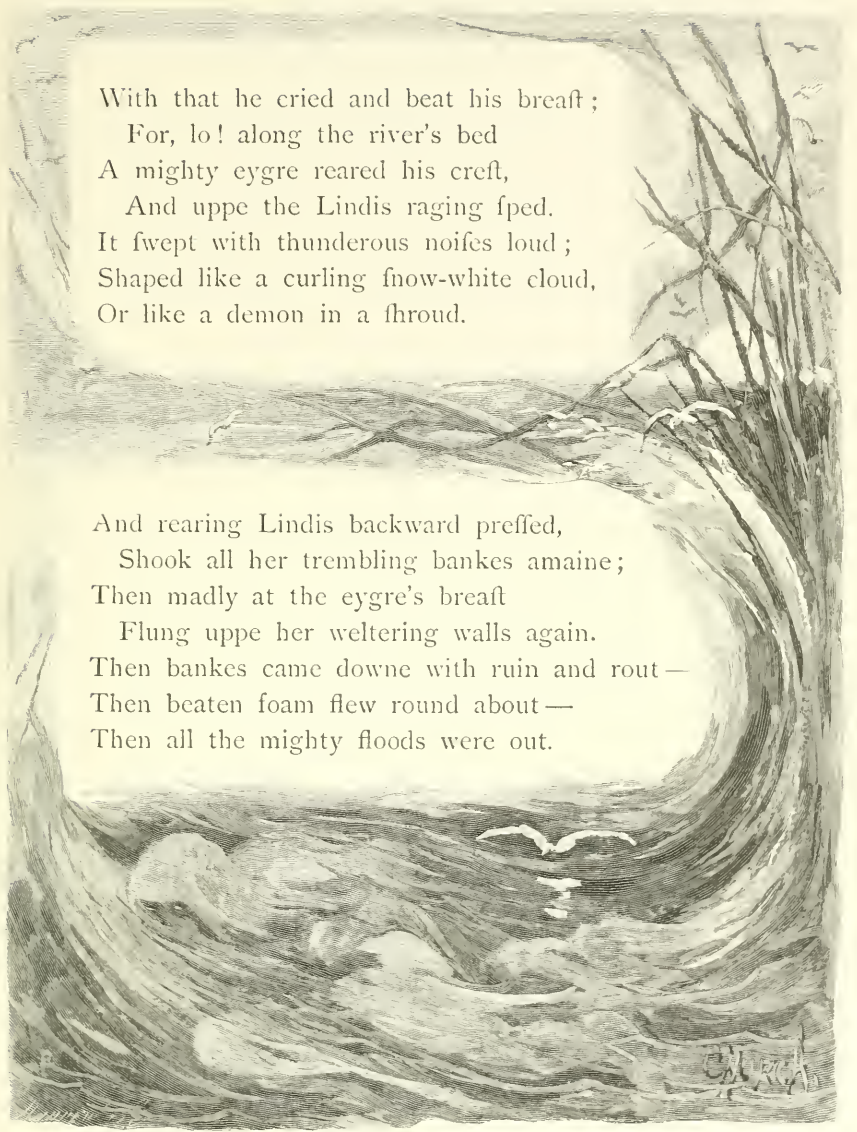


“ Good fomme, where Lindis winds away,  
With her two bairns I marked her long ;  
And ere yon bells beganne to play  
Afar I heard her milking fong.”  
He looked acrofs the graffy lea,  
To right, to left, “ Ho, Enderby ! ”  
They rang “ The Brides of Enderby ! ”





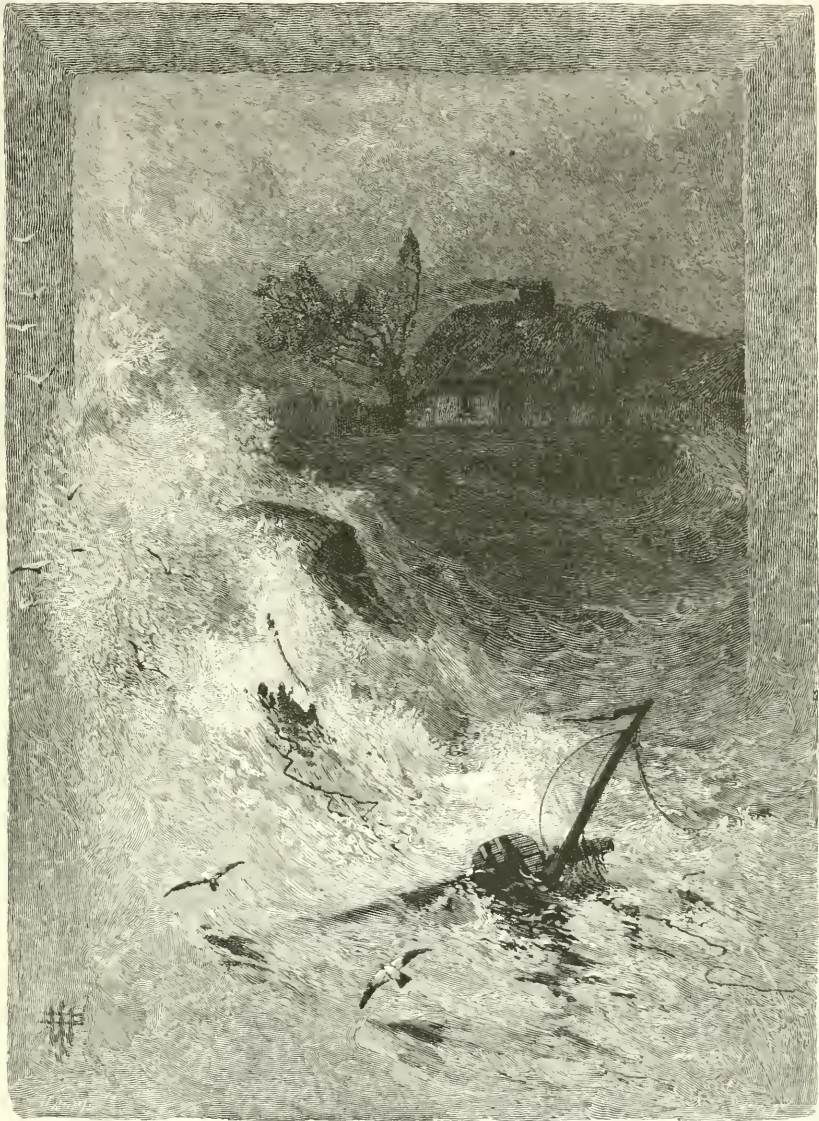




With that he cried and beat his breast ;  
For, lo ! along the river's bed  
A mighty eygre reared his crest,  
And uppe the Lindis raging sped.  
It swept with thunderous noises loud ;  
Shaped like a curling snow-white cloud,  
Or like a demon in a shroud.

And rearing Lindis backward pressed,  
Shook all her trembling bankes amaine ;  
Then madly at the eygre's breast  
Flung uppe her weltering walls again.  
Then bankes came downe with ruin and rout —  
Then beaten foam flew round about —  
Then all the mighty floods were out.





*“Then beaten foam flew round about—  
Then all the mighty floods were out.”*



So farre, fo fast the eygre drave,  
The heart had hardly time to beat,  
Before a shallow feething wave

Sobbed in the graffes at oure feet :  
The feet had hardly time to flee  
Before it brake againft the knee,  
And all the world was in the fea.



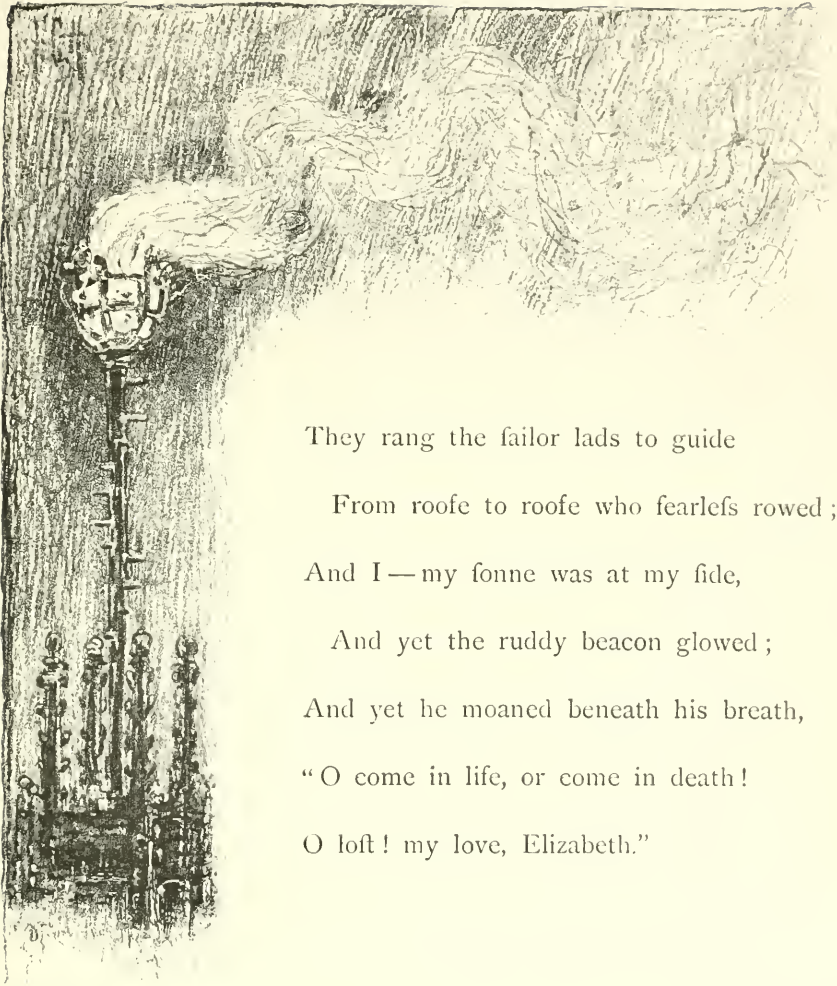




Upon the roofe we fate that night,  
The noise of bells went sweeping by ;  
I marked the lofty beacon light  
Stream from the church tower, red and high—  
A lurid mark and dread to see ;  
And awfome bells they were to mee,  
That in the dark rang “Enderby.”







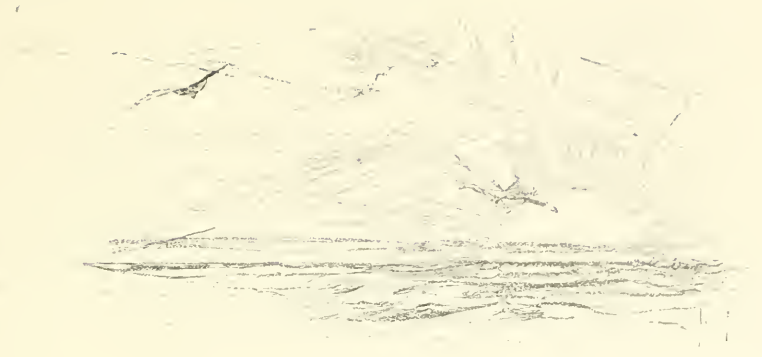
They rang the failor lads to guide  
From roofe to roofe who fearles rowed ;  
And I— my fonne was at my fide,  
And yet the ruddy beacon glowed ;  
And yet he moaned beneath his breath,  
“ O come in life, or come in death !  
O loft ! my love, Elizabeth.”





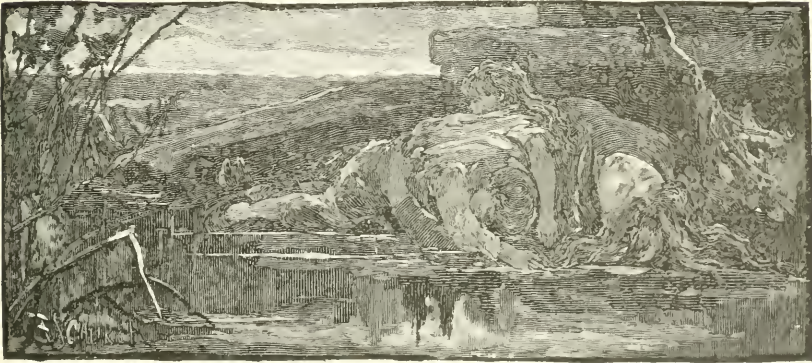
*“ Upon the rooffe we fate that night.”*





And didst thou visit him no more?

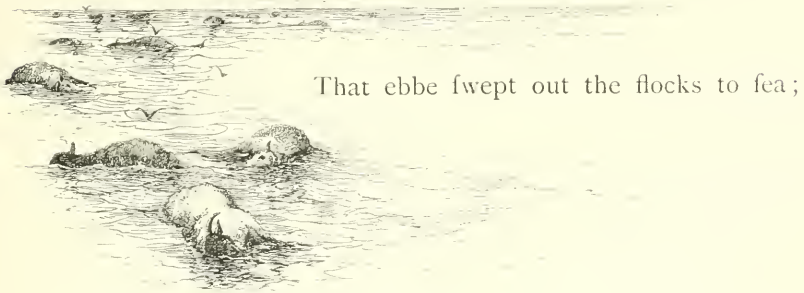
Thou didst, thou didst, my daughter deare ;  
The waters laid thee at his doore,  
Ere yet the early dawn was clear.  
Thy pretty bairns in fast embrace,  
The lifted sun shone on thy face,  
Downe drifted to thy dwelling-place.







That flow strewed wrecks about the grafs,



That ebbe swept out the flocks to fea;

A fatal ebbe and flow, alas!

To manye more than myne and mee:  
But each will mourn his own (the faith).  
And sweeter woman ne'er drew breath  
Than my fonne's wife, Elizabeth.





I fhall never hear her more  
By the reedy Lindis shore,  
“Cufha! Cufha! Cufha!” calling,  
Ere the early dewes be falling ;  
I fhall never hear her fong,  
“Cufha! Cufha!” all along  
Where the funny Lindis floweth,  
Goeth, floweth ;  
From the meads where melick groweth,  
When the water winding down,  
Onward floweth to the town.



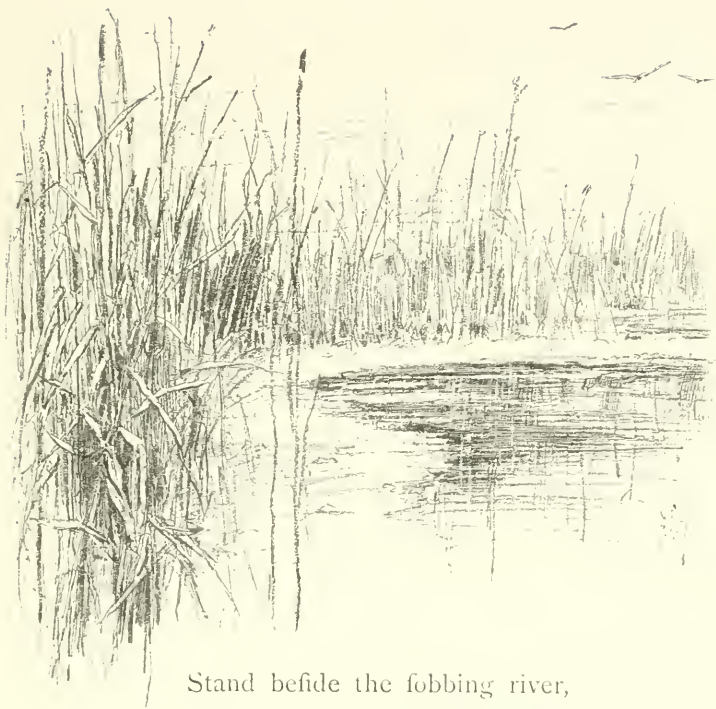




*“Cusha! Cusha! Cusha!” calling.*

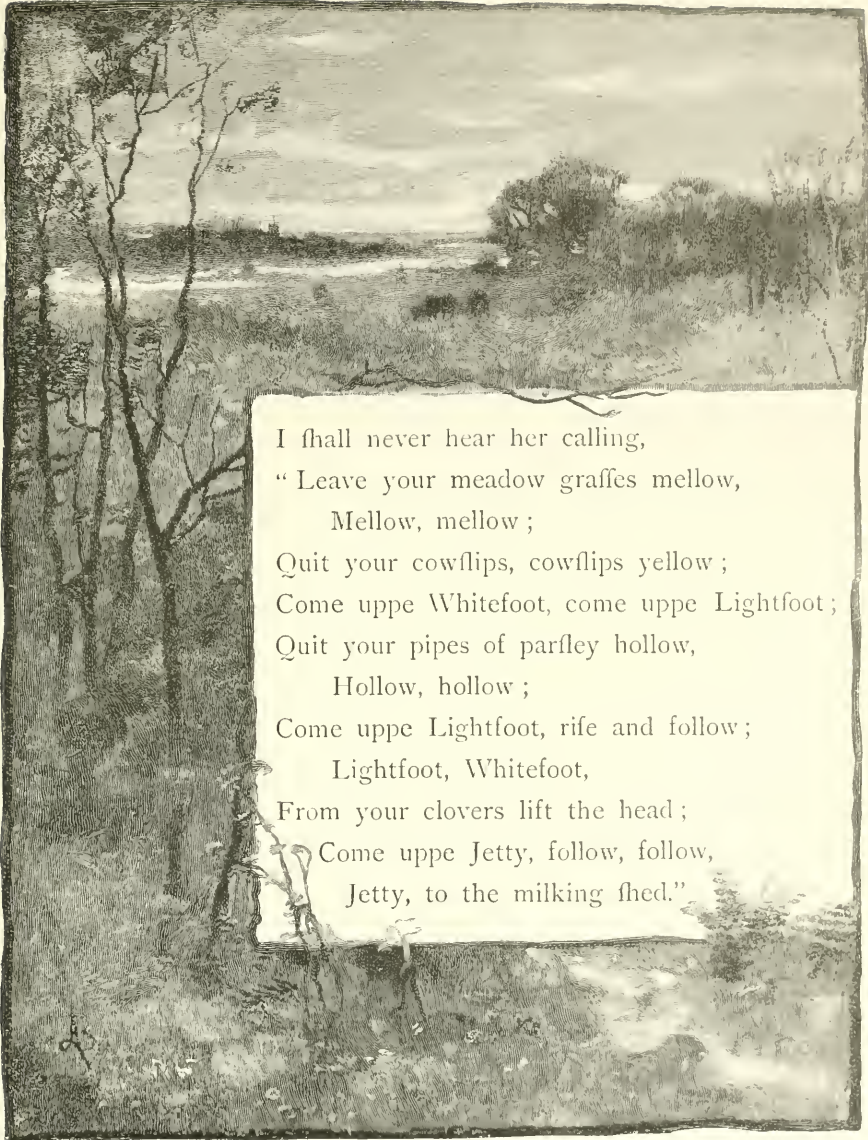


I shall never see her more  
Where the reeds and rushes quiver,  
Shiver, quiver ;



Stand beside the sobbing river,  
Sobbing, throbbing, in its falling  
To the sandy lonesome shore ;

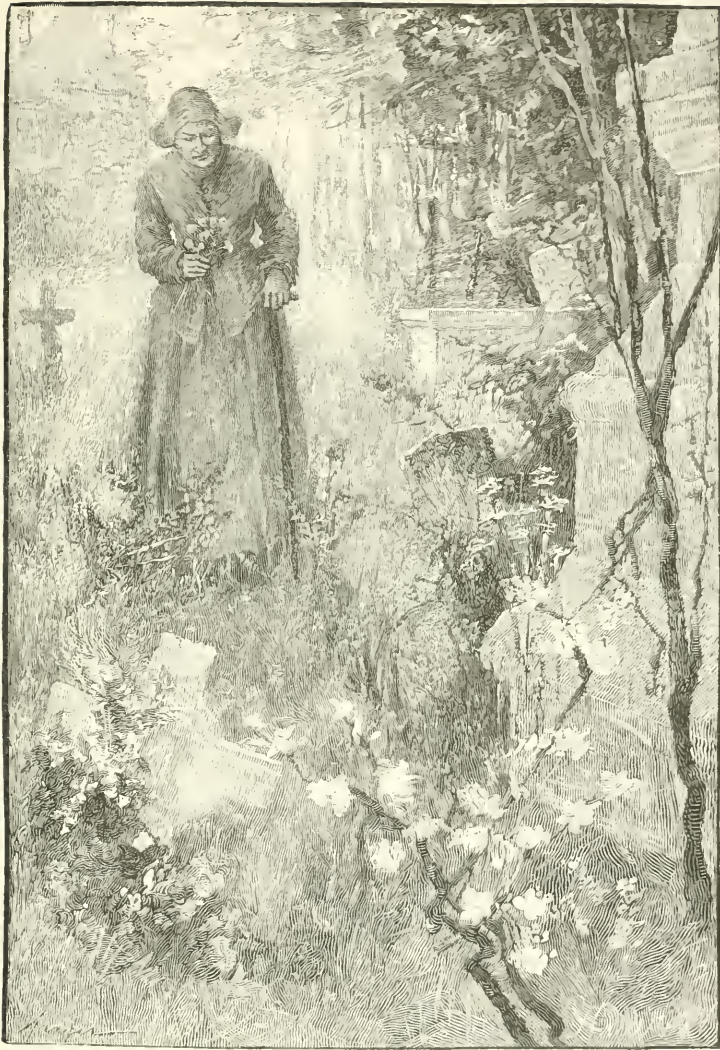




I shall never hear her calling,  
“Leave your meadow grasses mellow,  
Mellow, mellow ;  
Quit your cowslips, cowslips yellow ;  
Come uppe Whitefoot, come uppe Lightfoot ;  
Quit your pipes of parsley hollow,  
Hollow, hollow ;  
Come uppe Lightfoot, rife and follow ;  
Lightfoot, Whitefoot,  
From your clovers lift the head ;  
Come uppe Jetty, follow, follow,  
Jetty, to the milking shed.”







*"But each will mourn his own."*





JEAN INGELOW'S HOME.

JEAN INGELOW, the author of "The High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire," was born in the quaint old city of Boston, under the shadow of St. Botolph's tower. Writing of her childish days, she says: "We had a lofty nursery, with a bow-window" (which can be seen in the picture) "that overlooked the river. My brother and I were constantly wondering at this river. The coming up of the tides, and the ships, and the jolly gangs of towers dragging them on with a monotonous song, made a daily delight for us." At this time she was three years old, and in one of her poems she sings of "The days without alloy:"—

"When I sit on market-days amid the comers and the goers,  
Oh! full oft I have a vision of the days without alloy,  
And a ship comes up the river with a jolly gang of towers,  
And a 'pull'e haul'e, pull'e haul'e, yoy! heave, hoy!"

NOTE I. — PAGE 11.

*“The old mayor climbed the belfry tower.”*

THE bells at Boston were always rung on occasions of danger, and the belfry tower of St. Botolph Church was the only height from which could be seen the country around and out to the sea. It was a great beacon, and the top was a lanthorn-tower, supporting a lanthorn three hundred feet high in air, visible at sea for forty miles, which was lighted at night on such occasions, and to guide people to the town; for the country was one vast pasture, with no high-roads between Boston and the sea. So the mayor and the ringers, on receiving news of the great tide coming in, “climbed the belfry tower.”

NOTE II. — PAGE 11.

*“O Boston Bells!”*

In the seventh century a pious monk, known as St. Botolph, or Bot-holp, i. e. Boathelp, founded a church at a place called Y-cean-ho. The town which grew up around it was called Botolph's Town, contracted into Bot'-olphston, Bot'-os-ton, and finally *Boston*. “Botolphstowne standeth hard on ye river of Lindis. The steeple of the church ‘being *quadrata Turris*’ and a lanthorn on it, is both very high and faire, and a marke bothe by sea and land, for all ye quarters thereabout. The stream of it is sometymes as swift as it were an arrow. The mayne se ys VI. miles of Boston. Dyverse good shippes, and other vessells ryde there.” (From an account written in 1541.)

NOTE III. — PAGE 11.

*“Play uppe ‘The Brides of Enderby.’”*

It is said that the people knew by the language of the bells what was the occasion of their ringing, the different peals meaning different things.

NOTE IV. — PAGE 15.

*“Men say it was a stolen tyde.”*

A “stolen tyde” was meant to express a tide which rose at full of the moon, or in moderately calm weather, to an unprecedented height, — stole upon the country, as it were, and was not the result of great wind and storm. The poem is intended to convey the idea that there was a calm sunset, no commotion in the elements, and hence the surprise of the country people, who when they heard an alarm-peal did not at first know why they were warned.

NOTE V.—PAGE 17.

*“She moved where Lindis wandereth.”*

The name of the river on which the town of Boston is situated, — an abbreviation of Lindsissey, which also is an abbreviation of Lincolnshire.

NOTE VI.—PAGE 33.

*“For evil news from Mablethorpe.”*

An adjoining parish, which suffered terribly from the devastation of the high tide in 1571.



SKIRBECK CHURCH, BOSTON. ENGLAND.

This church stood on the brink of the river, at the time of the disaster consequent upon the high tide. When a child Miss Ingelow always attended service in this church.

*“A mighty eygre reared his crest.”*

An *eygre* is the great wave which, when the tide turns, rushes up a tidal river that is pent in between high rocks or artificial banks, and, meeting the fresh water coming down, causes devastation and disaster. In the case of the high tide of 1571 it burst the banks of the river, tore down the “old sea-wall,” which was another bank, and flooded the country.



THE OLD VICARAGE, BOSTON, ENGLAND.

In this vicarage the Rev. John Cotton lived whilst he was vicar, before he fled to Boston, New England. John Cotton was born at Derby, 4th Dec. 1585; entered Trinity College, 1598; appointed to the vicarage of Boston, England, 1612; compelled to resign because he was guilty of Puritanism and Nonconformity, 1633; arrived at Boston, New England, 4th Sept. 1633; ordained 16th Oct. 1633, over the First Church in *New Boston*; died 23d Dec. 1652; and on the 29th of that month he was carried on the shoulders of his fellow-ministers to the burial-ground of King's Chapel.







THE  
SHEPHERD LADY,

*AND OTHER POEMS.*

By JEAN INGELOW,  
AUTHOR OF "SONGS OF SEVEN."

BOSTON:  
ROBERTS BROTHERS.

1886.



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THE SHEPHERD LADY.

I.

WHO pipes upon the long green hill,  
Where meadow grass is deep?  
The white lamb bleats but followeth on —  
Follow the clean white sheep.  
The dear white lady in yon high tower,  
She hearkeneth in her sleep.

All in long grass the piper stands,  
Goodly and grave is he ;  
Outside the tower, at dawn of day,  
The notes of his pipe ring free.  
A thought from his heart doth reach to hers :  
“Come down, O lady! to me.”

*The Shepherd Lady.*

She lifts her head, she dons her gown :

Ah ! the lady is fair ;

She ties the girdle on her waist,

And binds her flaxen hair,

And down she stealeth, down and down,

Down the turret stair.

Behold him ! With the flock he wons

Along yon grassy lea.

“ My shepherd lord, my shepherd love,

What wilt thou, then, with me ?

My heart is gone out of my breast,

And followeth on to thee.”



*"The dear white lady in yon high tower,  
She hearkeneth in her sleep."*

*The Shepherd Lady.*

II.

“The white lambs feed in tender grass :  
With them and thee to bide,  
How good it were,” she saith at noon ;  
“ Albeit the meads are wide.  
Oh ! well is me,” she saith when day  
Draws on to eventide.

Hark ! hark ! the shepherd’s voice. Oh, sweet !  
Her tears drop down like rain.  
“ Take now this crook, my chosen, my fere,  
And tend the flock full fain ;  
Feed them, O lady, and lose not one,  
Till I shall come again.”

Right soft her speech : “ My will is thine,  
And my reward thy grace ! ”  
Gone are his footsteps over the hill,  
Withdrawn his goodly face ;  
The mournful dusk begins to gather,  
The daylight wanes apace.





*"Take now this crook."*

*The Shepherd Lady.*

III.

On sunny slopes, ah ! long the lady  
    Feedeth her flock at noon ;  
She leads it down to drink at eve  
    Where the small rivulets croon.  
All night her locks are wet with dew,  
    Her eyes outwatch the moon.

Beyond the hills her voice is heard,  
    She sings when light doth wane :  
“ My longing heart is full of love,  
    Nor shall my watch be vain.  
My shepherd lord, I see him not,  
    But he will come again.”



*"On sunny slopes, ah! long the lady  
Feedeth her flock at noon"*

ABOVE THE CLOUDS.

**A**ND can this be my own world?  
'Tis all gold and snow,  
Save where scarlet waves are hurled  
Down yon gulf below?  
'Tis thy world, 'tis my world,  
City, mead, and shore,  
For he that hath his own world  
Hath many worlds more.



LOVE'S THREAD OF GOLD.

**I**N the night she told a story,  
In the night and all night through,  
While the moon was in her glory,  
And the branches dropped with dew.  
'Twas my life she told, and round it  
Rose the years as from a deep ;  
In the world's great heart she found it,  
Cradled like a child asleep.  
In the night I saw her weaving  
By the misty moonbeam cold,  
All the weft her shuttle cleaving  
With a sacred thread of gold.  
Ah ! she wept me tears of sorrow,  
Lulling tears so mystic sweet ;  
Then she wove my last to-morrow,  
And her web lay at my feet.

*Love's Thread of Gold.*

Of my life she made the story :

I must weep—so soon 'twas told !

But your name did lend it glory,

And your love its thread of gold !

## FAILURE.

**W**E are much bound to them that do succeed ;  
But, in a more pathetic sense, are bound  
To such as fail. They all our loss expound ;  
They comfort us for work that will not speed,  
And life — itself a failure.





*Failure.*

Ay, his deed,  
Sweetest in story, who the dusk profound  
Of Hades flooded with entrancing sound,  
Music's own tears, was failure. Doth it read  
Therefore the worse? Ah, no! so much to dare,  
He fronts the regnant Darkness on its throne.—  
So much to do; impetuous even there,  
He pours out love's disconsolate sweet moan—  
He wins; but few for that his deed recall:  
Its power is in the look which costs him all.



ONE MORNING, OH! SO EARLY.

ONE morning, oh! so early, my belovèd, my belovèd,  
All the birds were singing blithely, as if never they  
would cease ;

'Twas a thrush sang in my garden, "Hear the story, hear the  
story!"

And the lark sang, "Give us glory!"

And the dove said, "Give us peace!"

Then I listened, oh! so early, my belovèd, my belovèd,  
To that murmur from the woodland of the dove, my dear, the  
dove ;

When the nightingale came after, "Give us fame to sweeten  
duty!"

When the wren sang, "Give us beauty!"

She made answer, "Give us love!"

*One Morning, Oh! So Early.*

Sweet is spring, and sweet the morning, my beloved, my  
belovèd ;

Now for us doth spring, doth morning, wait upon the year's  
increase,

And my prayer goes up, " Oh, give us, crowned in youth with  
marriage glory,

Give for all our life's dear story,

Give us love, and give us peace !"

## THE DAYS WITHOUT ALLOY.

WHEN I sit on market-days amid the comers and the  
goers,

Oh! full oft I have a vision of the days without alloy,  
And a ship comes up the river with a jolly gang of towers,  
And a "pull'e haul'e, pull'e haul'e, yoy! heave, hoy!"

There is busy talk around me, all about mine ears it hummeth,  
But the wooden wharves I look on, and a dancing, heaving  
buoy,

For 'tis tidetime in the river, and she cometh — oh, she  
cometh!

With a "pull'e haul'e, pull'e haul'e, yoy! heave, hoy!"

Then I hear the water washing, never golden waves were  
brighter,

And I hear the capstan creaking — 'tis a sound that cannot  
cloy.



*“And a ship comes up the river with a jolly gang of towers.”*

*The Days Without Alloy.*

Bring her to, to ship her lading, brig or schooner, sloop or  
lighter,

With a "pull'e haul'e, pull'e haul'e, yoy! heave, hoy!"

"Will ye step aboard, my dearest? for the high seas lie be-  
fore us."

So I sailed with him the river in those days without alloy;  
Sailed afar, but when, I wonder, shall a sweeter sound float  
o'er us

Than yon "pull'e haul'e, pull'e haul'e, yoy! heave, hoy!"



THE LEAVES OF LIGN ALOES.

**D**ROP, drop from the leaves of lign aloes,  
O honey-dew! drop from the tree.  
Float up through your clear river shallows,  
White lilies, beloved of the bee.

Let the people, O Queen! say, and bless thee,  
Her bounty drops soft as the dew,  
And spotless in honor confess thee,  
As lilies are spotless in hue.

On the roof stands yon white stork awaking,  
His feathers flush rosy the while,  
For, lo! from the blushing east breaking,  
The sun sheds the bloom of his smile.

Let them boast of thy word, "It is certain ;  
We doubt it no more," let them say,  
"Than to-morrow that night's dusky curtain  
Shall roll back its folds for the day."

ON THE ROCKS BY ABERDEEN.

ON the rocks by Aberdeen,  
Where the whislin' wave had been,  
As I wandered and at e'en  
Was eerie ;  
There I saw thee sailing west,  
And I ran with joy opprest —  
Ay, and took out all my best,  
My dearie.

Then I busked mysel' wi' speed,  
And the neighbors cried "What need ?  
'Tis a lass in any weed  
Aye bonny !"  
Now my heart, my heart is sair :  
What's the good, though I be fair,  
For thou'lt never see me mair,  
Man Johnnie !



*“Then I busked mysel’ wi’ speed,  
And the neighbors cried “What need?”*

FEATHERS AND MOSS.

THE marten flew to the finch's nest,  
Feathers and moss, and a wisp of hay :  
"The arrow it sped to thy brown mate's breast ;  
Low in the broom is thy mate to-day."

"Liest thou low, love? low in the broom?  
Feathers and moss, and a wisp of hay,  
Warm the white eggs till I learn his doom."  
She beateth her wings, and away, away.

"Ah, my sweet singer, thy days are told  
(Feathers and moss, and a wisp of hay)!  
Thine eyes are dim, and the eggs grow cold.  
O mournful morrow! O dark to-day!"

The finch flew back to her cold, cold nest,  
Feathers and moss, and a wisp of hay,  
Mine is the trouble that rent her breast,  
And home is silent, and love is clay.



SWEET is childhood — childhood's over,  
Kiss and part.  
Sweet is youth ; but youth's a rover —  
So's my heart.  
Sweet is rest ; but by all showing  
Toil is nigh.  
We must go. Alas ! the going,  
Say "good-bye."



THE GYPSY'S SELLING SONG.

**M**Y good man — he's an old, old man,  
And my good man got a fall,  
To buy me a bargain so fast he ran  
When he heard the gypsies call :  
    “ Buy, buy brushes,  
    Baskets wrought o' rushes.  
    Buy them, buy them, take them, try them,  
    Buy, dames all.”

My old man, he has money and land,  
And a young, young wife am I.  
Let him put the penny in my white hand  
When he hears the gypsies cry :  
    “ Buy, buy laces,  
    Veils to screen your faces.  
    Buy them, buy them, take and try them.  
    Buy, maids, buy.”



*“Buy them, buy them, take and try them.  
Buy, maids, buy.”*

MY FAIR LADY.

MY fair lady's a dear, dear lady —  
I walked by her side to woo.  
In a garden alley, so sweet and shady,  
She answered, " I love not you,  
John, John Brady,"  
Quoth my dear lady,  
" Pray now, pray now, go your way now,  
Do, John, do !"

Yet my fair lady's my own, own lady,  
For I passed another day ;  
While making her moan, she sat all alone,  
And thus and thus did she say :  
" John, John Brady,"  
Quoth my dear lady,  
" Do now, do now, once more woo now,  
Pray, John, pray !"



SLEEP AND TIME.

“**W**AKE, baillie, wake! the crafts are out;  
Wake!” said the knight, “be quick!

For high street, bye street, over the town

They fight with poker and stick.”

Said the squire, “A fight so fell was ne'er

In all thy bailliewick.”

What said the old clock in the tower?

“Tick, tick, tick!”

“Wake, daughter, wake! the hour draws on;

Wake!” quoth the dame, “be quick!

The meats are set, the guests are coming,

The fiddler waxing his stick.”

She said, “The bridegroom waiting and waiting

To see thy face is sick.”

What said the new clock in her bower?

“Tick, tick, tick!”

MASTER, QUOTH THE AULD HOUND.

“**M**ASTER,” quoth the auld hound,  
“Where will ye go?”

“Over moss, over muir,  
To court my new jo.”

“Master, though the night be merk,  
I’se follow through the snow.

“Court her, master, court her,  
So shall ye do weel ;  
But and ben she’ll guide the house,  
I’se get milk and meal.  
Ye’se get liling while she sits  
With her rock and reel.”

“For, oh! she has a sweet tongue,  
And een that look down,  
A gold girdle for her waist,  
And a purple gown.  
She has a good word forbye  
Fra a’ folk in the town.”



*“ Court her, master, court her,  
So shall ye do weel.”*

LIKE A LAVEROCK IN THE LIFT.

**I**T'S we two, it's we two, it's we two for aye,  
All the world and we two, and Heaven be our stay.  
Like a laverock in the lift, sing, O bonny bride!  
All the world was Adam once, with Eve by his side.

What's the world, my lass, my love!—what can it do?  
I am thine, and thou art mine; life is sweet and new.  
If the world have missed the mark, let it stand by,  
For we two have gotten leave, and once more we'll try.

Like a laverock in the lift, sing, O bonny bride!  
It's we two, it's we two, happy side by side.  
Take a kiss from me thy man; now the song begins:  
“All is made afresh for us, and the brave heart wins.”

When the darker days come, and no sun will shine,  
Thou shalt dry my tears, lass, and I'll dry thine.  
It's we two, it's we two, while the world's away,  
Sitting by the golden sheaves on our wedding-day.

AT ONE AGAIN.

## AT ONE AGAIN.



### I. NOONDAY.

**T**WO angry men — in heat they sever,  
And one goes home by a harvest field :—  
“ Hope’s nought,” quoth he, “ and vain endeavour ;  
“ I said and say it, I will not yield !

“ As for this wrong, no art can mend it,  
The bond is shiver’d that held us twain ;  
Old friends we be, but law must end it,  
Whether for loss or whether for gain.



*"His strawberry cow slipped loose her tether,  
And trod the best of my barley down."*

*At One Again.*

“Yon stream is small — full slow its wending ;  
But winning is sweet, but right is fine ;  
And shoal of trout, or willowy bending —  
Though Law be costly — I’ll prove them mine.

“ His strawberry cow slipped loose her tether,  
And trod the best of my barley down ;  
His little lasses at play together  
Pluck’d the poppies my boys had grown.

“ What then ? — Why nought ! *She* lack’d of reason ;  
And *they* — my little ones match them well : —  
But *this* — Nay all things have their season,  
And ’tis my season to curb and quell.”



## II. SUNSET.

**S**O saith he, when noontide fervours flout him,  
So thinks, when the West is amber and red,  
When he smells the hop-vines sweet about him,  
And the clouds are rosy overhead.

While slender and tall the hop-poles going  
Straight to the West in their leafy lines,  
Portion it out into chambers, glowing,  
And bask in red day as the sun declines.

Between the leaves in his latticed arbour  
He sees the sky, as they flutter and turn,  
While moor'd like boats in a golden harbour  
The fleets of feathery cloudlets burn.

*At One Again.*

Withdrawn in shadow, he thinketh over  
Harsh thoughts, the fruit-laden trees among,  
Till pheasants call their young to cover,  
And cushats coo them a nursery song.

And flocks of ducks forsake their sedges,  
Wending home to the wide barn-door,  
And loaded wains between the hedges  
Slowly creep to his threshing floor —

Slowly creep. And his tired senses,  
Float him over the magic stream,  
To a world where Fancy recompenses  
Vengeful thoughts, with a troubled dream!



*“And his tired senses,  
Float him over the magic stream.”*

### III. THE DREAM.

WHAT'S this? a wood—What's that? one calleth,  
Calleth and cryeth in mortal dread—  
He hears men strive—then somewhat falleth!—  
“Help me, neighbour—I'm hard bestead.”

The dream is strong—the voice he knoweth—  
But when he would run, his feet are fast,  
And death lies beyond, and no man goeth  
To help, and he says the time is past.

His feet are held, and he shakes all over,—  
Nay—they are free—he has found the place—  
Green boughs are gather'd—what is't they cover?—  
“I pray you, look on the dead man's face :

*At One Again.*

You that stand by," he saith, and cowers —  
    "Man, or Angel, to guard the dead  
With shadowy spear, and a brow that lowers,  
    And wing-points reared in the gloom o'erhead. —

I dare not look. He wronged me never.  
    Men say we differ'd ; they speak amiss :  
This man and I were neighbours ever —  
    I would have ventured my life for his.

But fast my feet were — fast with tangles —  
    Aye ! words — but they were not sharp, I trow,  
Though parish feuds and vestry wrangles —  
    O pitiful sight — I see thee now ! —

If we fell out, 'twas but foul weather,  
    After long shining ! O bitter cup, —  
What — dead ? — why, man, we play'd together —  
    Art dead — ere a friend can make it up ? "

#### IV. THE WAKING.

O VER his head the chafer hummeth,  
Under his feet shut daisies bend :  
Waken, man ! the enemy cometh,  
Thy neighbour, counted so long a friend.

He cannot waken — and firm, and steady,  
The enemy comes with lowering brow ;  
He looks for war, his heart is ready,  
His thoughts are bitter — he will not bow.

He fronts the seat, — the dream is flinging  
A spell that his footsteps may not break, —  
But one in the garden of hops is singing —  
The dreamer hears it, and starts awake.



*“But one in the garden of hops is singing —  
The dreamer hears it, and starts awake.”*

V. A SONG.

WALKING apart, she thinks none listen ;  
And now she carols, and now she stops ;  
And the evening star begins to glisten  
Atween the lines of blossoming hops.

Sweetest Mercy, your mother taught you  
All uses and cares that to maids belong ;  
Apt scholar to read and to sew she thought you —  
She did not teach you that tender song —

“ The lady sang in her charmèd bower,  
Sheltered and safe under roses blown —  
*‘ Storm cannot touch me, hail, nor shower,*  
*Where all alone I sit, all alone.*





*"The lady sang in her charmed bower,  
Sheltered and safe under roses blown."*

*At One Again.*

*My bower ! The fair Fay twined it round me ;  
Care nor trouble can pierce it through ;  
But once a sigh from the warm world found me  
Between two leaves that were bent with dew.*

*And day to night, and night to morrow,  
Though soft as slumber the long hours wore  
I looked for my dower of love, of sorrow—  
Is there no more—no more—no more ?'*

Give her the sun-sweet light, and duly  
To walk in shadow, nor chide her part ;  
Give her the rose, and truly, truly—  
To wear its thorn with a patient heart.—

Misty as dreams the moonbeam lyeth  
Chequered and faint on her charmèd floor ;  
The lady singeth, the lady sigheth—  
' *Is there no more—no more—no more !* ' "

VI. LOVERS.

A CRASH of boughs!—one through them breaking!  
Mercy is startled, and fain would fly,  
But e'en as she turns, her steps o'ertaking,  
He pleads with her—"Mercy, it is but I!"

"Mercy!" he touches her hand unbidden—  
"The air is balmy, I pray you stay—  
Mercy?" Her downcast eyes are hidden,  
And never a word she has to say.

Till closer drawn, her prison'd fingers  
He takes to his lips with a yearning strong;  
And she murmurs low, that late she lingers,  
Her mother will want her, and think her long.

*At One Again.*

“ Good mother is she, then honour duly  
The lightest wish in her heart that stirs ;  
But there is a bond yet dearer truly,  
And there is a love that passeth hers.

Mercy, Mercy !” Her heart attendeth —  
Love’s birthday blush on her brow lies sweet ;  
She turns her face when his own he bendeth,  
And the lips of the youth and the maiden meet.



*“She turns her face when his own he bendeth,  
And the lips of the youth and the maiden meet.”*

## VII. FATHERS.

**M**OVE through the bowring hops, O lovers,—  
Wander down to the golden West,—  
But two stand mute in the shade that covers  
Your love and youth from their souls opprest.

A little shame on their spirits stealing,—  
A little pride that is loth to sue,—  
A little struggle with soften'd feeling,—  
And a world of fatherly care for you.

One says: "To this same running water,  
May be, Neighbour, your claim is best."  
And one—"Your son has kissed my daughter:  
Let the matters between us—rest."



*“ Move through the bowring hops, O lovers, —  
Wander down to the golden West.”*











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