By virtue of a sense which lets us in To know its troubles ere they have been told, And take them home and lull them into rest With mournfullest music. Time is given to us, -Time past, time future. Who, good sooth, beside Have seen it well, have walked this empty world When she went steaming, and from pulpy hills Have marked the spurting of their flamy crowns?

Have not we seen the tabernacle pitched, And peered between the linen curtains, blue, Purple, and scarlet, at the dimness there, And, frighted, have not dared to look again? But, quaint antiquity! beheld, we thought, A chest that might have held the manna pot, And Aaron's rod that budded. Ay, we leaned Over the edge of Britain, while the fleet Of Cæsar loomed and neared; then, afterwards, We saw fair Venice looking at herself In the glass below her, while her Doge went forth In all his bravery to the wedding.

This.

However, counts for nothing to the grace We wot of in time future: - therefore add, And afterwards have done: "Hence we may learn," That though it be a grand and comely thing To be unhappy - (and we think it is, Because so many grand and clever folk Have found out reasons for unhappiness, And talked about uncomfortable things, -Low motives, bores, and shams, and hollowness, The hollowness o' the world, till we at last Have scarcely dared to jump or stamp, for fear, Being so hollow, it should break some day, And let us in), - yet, since we are not grand, O, not at all, and as for cleverness, Humanity is given to us; we fel That may be or may not be, - it is well For us to be as happy as we can!

Agreed: and with a word to the noble sex, As thus: We pray you carry not your guns On the full-cock; we pray you set your pride In its proper place, and never be ashamed Of any honest calling, -let us add, And end: For all the rest, hold up your heads And mind your English.

SONGS WITH PRELUDES.

WEDLOCK.

THE sun was streaming in: I woke, and said, "Where is my wife, - that has been made my wife Only this year?" The casement stood ajar: I did but lift my head: The pear-tree dropped, The great white pear-tree dropped with dew from leaves

And blossom, under heavens of happy blue.

My wife had wakened first, and had gone down Into the orchard. All the air was calm; Audible humming filled it. At the roots Of peony bushes lay in rose-red heaps, Or snowy, fallen bloom. The crag-like hills Were tossing down their silver messengers, And two brown foreigners, called cuckoo-birds, Gave them good answer; all things else were mute; An idle world lay listening to their talk, They had it to themselves.

· II.

What ails my wife?

I know not if aught ails her; though her step Tell of a conscious quiet, lest I wake. She moves atween the almond-boughs, and bends One thick with bloom to look on it. "O love! A little while thou hast withdrawn thyself, At unaware to think thy thoughts alone: How sweet, and yet pathetic to my heart The reason. Ah! thou art no more thine own. Mine, mine, O love! Tears gather 'neath my lids, -Sorrowful tears for thy lost liberty, Because it was so sweet. Thy liberty, That yet, O love, thou wouldst not have again. No; all is right. But who can give, or bless, Or take a blessing, but there comes withal Some pain?"

She walks beside the lily bed, And holds apart her gown; she would not hurt The leaf-enfolded buds, that have not looked Yet on the daylight. O, thy locks are brown, -Fairest of colors! - and a darker brown The beautiful, dear, veilèd, modest eyes. A bloom as of blush roses covers her Twith her, Forehead, and throat, and cheek. Health breather And graceful vigor. Fair and wondrous soul! To think that thou art mine!

My wife came in, And moved into the chamber. As for me, I heard, but lay as one that nothing hears, And feigned to be asleep.

The racing river leaped, and sang Full blithely in the perfect weather, All round the mountain echoes rang, For blue and green were glad together. This rained out light from every part, And that with songs of joy was thrilling; But in the hollow of my heart,

There ached a place that wanted filling.

Before the road and river meet, And stepping-stones are wet and glisten, I heard a sound of laughter sweet, And paused to like it, and to listen.

I heard the chanting waters flow, The cushat's note, the bee's low humming,-Then turned the hedge, and did not know, -How could I? — that my time was coming.

A girl upon the nighest stone, Half doubtful of the deed, was standing, So far the shallow flood had flown Beyond the 'customed leap of landing.

We did amiss when we will wish it cone

She knew not any need of me, Yet me she waited all unweeting; We thought not I had crossed the sea, And half the sphere to give her meeting.

I waded out, her eyes I met, I wished the moments had been hours; I took her in my arms, and set Her dainty feet among the flowers.

VIII.

Her fellow-maids in copse and lane, Ah! still, methinks, I hear them calling; The wind's soft whisper in the plain, The cushat's coo, the water's falling.

IX.

But now it is a year ago, But now possession crowns endeavor; I took her in my heart, to grow And fill the hollow place forever.

REGRET.

O THAT WORD REGRET! There have been nights and morns when we have sighed,

"Let us alone, Regret! We are content To throw thee all our past, so thou wilt sleep For aye." But it is patient, and it wakes; It hath not learned to cry itself to sleep, But plaineth on the bed that it is hard.

We did amiss when we did wish it gone And over: sorrows humanize our race; Tears are the showers that fertilize this world, And memory of things precious keepeth warm The heart that once did bold them.

They are poor

That have lost nothing; they are poorer far Who, losing, have forgotten; they most poor Of all, who lose and wish they might forget. For life is one, and in its warp and woof There runs a thread of gold that glitters fair.

And sometimes in the pattern shows most sweet Where there are sombre colors. It is true That we have wept. But O! this thread of gold, We would not have it tarnish; let us turn Oft and lock back upon the wondrous web, And when it shineth sometimes we shall know That memory is possession. To boot be some and

Pogether, underneath the Treat white throne, ...

When I remember something which I had, But which is gone, and I must do without, I sometimes wonder how I can be glad, Even in cowslip time when hedges sprout; It makes me sigh to think on it, - but yet My days will not be better days, should I forget.

When I remember something promised me, But which I never had, nor can have now, Because the promiser we no more see In countries that accord with mortal vow; When I remember this, I mourn, - but yet My happier days are not the days when I forget.

LAMENTATION.

I READ upon that book, went most flat of Which down the golden gulf doth let us look On the sweet days of pastoral majesty; I read upon that book How, when the Shepherd Prince did flee (Red Esau's twin), he desolate took The stone for a pillow: then he fell on sleep. And lo! there was a ladder. Lo! there hung A ladder from the star-place, and it clung To the earth: it tied her so to heaven; and O! There fluttered wings;

Then were ascending and descending things That stepped to him where he lay low; Then up the ladder would a-drifting go This feathered brood of heaven, and show and him Small as white flakes in winter that are blown Together, underneath the great white throne.

When I had shut the book, I said: "Now, as for me, my dreams upon my bed Are not like Jacob's dream; Yet I have got it in my life; yes, I, And many more: it doth not us beseem, Therefore, to sigh.

Is there not hung a ladder in our sky? Yea; and, moreover, all the way up on high Is thickly peopled with the prayers of men.

We have no dream! What then? Like winged wayfarers the height they scale (By Him that offers them they shall prevail) -The prayers of men.

But where is found a prayer for me; How should I pray? My heart is sick, and full of strife.

I heard one whisper with departing breath, 'Suffer us not, for any pains of death,

To fall from Thee.'

But O, the pains of life! the pains of life! There is no comfort now, and naught to win. But yet, - I will begin." and noon bear I.

How, when the Shepberd Prince did flee

"Preserve to me my wealth," I do not say, For that is wasted away; And much of it was cankered ere it went. "Preserve to me my health," I cannot sav, For that, upon a day, a year of most and I had Went after other delights to banishment.

On the ledges of this world, for it is mine; But the other world se we'll shall go too,

What can I pray? "Give me forgetfulness?" No, I would still possess the slind and any and I

Past away smiles, though present fronts be stern.

"Give me again my kindred?" Nay; not so, Not idle prayers. We know

They that have crossed the river cannot return.

When mortal hours are ediled. Let the wings.

I do not pray, "Comfort me! comfort me!" For how should comfort be?

O - O that cooling mouth, - that little white head! No; but I pray, "If it be not too late, Open to me the gate,

That I may find my babe when I am dead.

"Show me the path. I had forgotten Thee When I was happy and free, Walking down here in the gladsome light o' the sun; But now I come and mourn; O set my feet In the road to Thy blest seat, And for the rest, O God, Thy will be done."

DOMINION.

Joy is the grade we say to God not real

WHEN found the rose delight in her fair hue? Color is nothing to this world; 'tis I That see it. Farther, I discover soul, That trees are nothing to their fellow-trees; It is but I that love their stateliness, And I that, comforting my heart, do sit, At noon beneath their shadow. I will step On the ledges of this world, for it is mine; But the other world ye wot of shall go too, I will carry it in my bosom. O my world, That was not built with clay!

igh thesent fronts he stern

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Consider it

(This outer world we tread on) as a harp, -A gracious instrument on whose fair strings We learn those airs we shall be set to play When mortal hours are ended. Let the wings, Man, of thy spirit move on it as wind, And draw forth melody. Why shouldst thou yet Lie grovelling? More is won than e'er was lost: Inherit. Let thy day be to thy night A teller of good tidings. Let thy praise Go up as birds go up that, when they wake, Shake off the dew and soar.

So take Joy home, And make a place in thy great heart for her, And give her time to grow, and cherish her; Then will she come, and oft will sing to thee, When thou art working in the furrows; ay, Or weeding in the sacred hour of dawn. It is a comely fashion to be glad, -Joy is the grace we say to God.

Art tired?

There is a rest remaining. Hast thou sinned? There is a Sacrifice. Lift up thy head, The lovely world, and the over-world alike, Ring with a song eterne, a happy rede, "THY FATHER LOVES THEE."

You moored mackerel fleet Hangs thick as a swarm of bees, Or a clustering village street Foundationless built on the seas.

mach-low II.

The mariners ply their craft, Each set in his castle frail; His care is all for the draught, And he dries the rain-beaten sail.

For rain came down in the night And thunder muttered full oft, But now the azure is bright, And hawks are wheeling aloft.

I take the land to my breast, In her coat with daisies fine; For me are the hills in their best, And all that's made is mine.

Who saw have might well have

Sing high! "Though the red sun dip, There yet is a day for me; Nor youth I count for a ship That long ago foundered at sea.

For small, young children. IV Is a message here

"Did the lost love die and depart? Many times since we have met; For I hold the years in my heart, And all that was - is yet. No, nor delay to fin VII.

"I grant to the king his reign;
Let us yield him homage due;
But over the lands there are twain,
O king, I must rule as you.

VIII.

"I grant to the wise his meed,
But his yoke I will not brook,
For God taught me to read,—
He lent me the world for a book."

FRIENDSHIP.

ON A SUN-PORTRAIT OF HER HUSBAND, SENT BY HIS WIFE TO THEIR FRIEND.

BEAUTIFUL eyes, — and shall I see no more The living thought when it would leap from them, And play in all its sweetness 'neath their lids?

Here was a man familiar with fair heights
That poets climb. Upon his peace the tears
And troubles of our race deep inroads made,
Yet life was sweet to him; he kept his heart
At home. Who saw his wife might well have
thought,—

"God loves this man. He chose a wife for him,—
The true one!" O sweet eyes, that seem to live,
I know so much of you, tell me the rest!
Eyes full of fatherhood and tender care
For small, young children. Is a message here
That you would fain have sent, but had not time?
If such there be, I promise, by long love
And perfect friendship, by all trust that comes
Of understanding, that I will not fail,
No, nor delay to find it.

O, my heart

Will often pain me as for some strange fault, — Some grave defect in nature, — when I think How I, delighted, 'neath those olive-trees, Moved to the music of the tideless main, While, with sore weeping, in an island home They laid that much-loved head beneath the sod, And I did not know.

Leave it with God. But this I have known,

I stand on the bridge where last we stood
When young leaves played at their best.
The children called us from yonder wood,
And rock-doves crooned on the nest.

п.

Ah, yet you call, — in your gladness call, — And I hear your pattering feet;

It does not matter, matter at all,

You fatherless children sweet, —

III.

It does not matter at all to you,
Young hearts that pleasure besets;
The father sleeps, but the world is new,
The child of his love forgets.

rety . To beid a lost bak

I too, it may be, before they drop,
The leaves that flicker to-day,
Ere bountiful gleams make ripe the crop,
Shall pass from my place away:

She Bath Land TOO VIA SHT

Ere yon gray eygnet puts on her white,
Or snow lies soft on the wold,
Shall shut these eyes on the lovely light,
And leave the story untold.

VI.

Shall I tell it there? Ah, let that be,
For the warm pulse beats so high;
To love to-day, and to breathe and see,
To-morrow perhaps to die,—

VII.

Leave it with God. But this I have known,
That sorrow is over soon;
Some in dark nights, sore weeping alone,
Forget by full of the moon.

VIII.

But if all loved, as the few can love,
This world would seldom be well;
And who need wish, if he dwells above,
For a deep, a long death-knell.

IX.

There are four or five, who, passing this place While they live will name me yet; And when I am gone will think on my face, And feel a kind of regret.

WINSTANLEY.

THE APOLOGY.

Quoth the cedar to the reeds and rushes,
"Water-grass, you know not what I do;
Know not of my storms, nor of my hushes,
And—I know not you."

Quoth the reeds and rushes, "Wind! O waken!
Breathe, O wind, and set our answer free,
For we have no voice, of you forsaken,
For the cedar-tree."

Quoth the earth at midnight to the ocean,
"Wilderness of water, lost to view,
Naught you are to me but sounds of motion;
I am naught to you."

Quoth the ocean, "Dawn! O fairest, clearest,
Touch me with thy golden fingers bland;
For I have no smile till thou appearest
For the lovely land."

Quoth the hero, dying, whelmed in glory,
"Many blame me, few have understood;
Ah, my folk, to you I leave a story,—
Make its meaning good."

Quoth the folk, "Sing, poet! teach us, prove us,
Surely we shall learn the meaning then;
Wound us with a pain divine, O move us,
For this man of men."

Winstanley's deed, you kindly folk,
With it I fill my lay,
And a nobler man ne'er walked the world,
Let his name be what it may.

The good ship "Snowdrop" tarried long,
Up at the vane looked he;

"Belike," he said, for the wind had dropped, "She lieth becalmed at sea."

The lovely ladies flocked within,
And still would each one say,

"Good mercer, be the ships come up?"
But still he answered "Nay."

Then stepped two mariners down the street, With looks of grief and fear;

"Now, if Winstanley be your name, We bring you evil cheer!

"For the good ship 'Snowdrop' struck—she struck

On the rock, — the Eddystone, And down she went with threescore men, We two being left alone.

"Down in the deep, with freight and crew,
Past any help she lies,
And never a bale has come to shore
Of all thy merchandise."

"For cloth o' gold and comely frieze," Winstanley said, and sighed,

"For velvet coif, or costly coat, They fathoms deep may bide.

"O thou brave skipper, blithe and kind,
O mariners, bold and true,
Sorry at heart, right sorry am I,
A-thinking of yours and you.

"Many long days Winstanley's breast Shall feel a weight within, For a waft of wind he shall be 'feared And trading count but sin.

"To him no more it shall be joy
To pace the cheerful town,
And see the lovely ladies gay
Step on in velvet gown."

The "Snowdrop" sank at Lammas tide, All under the yeasty spray; On Christmas Eve the brig "Content" Was also cast away.

He little thought o' New Year's night, So jolly as he sat then, While drank the toast and praised the roast The round-faced Aldermen,—

And towering pasties fine, -

While serving-lads ran to and fro,
Pouring the ruby wine,
And jellies trembled on the board,

While loud huzzas ran up the roof

Till the lamps did rock o'erhead,

And holly boughs from rafters hung

Dropped down their berries red,—

He little thought on Plymouth Hoe,
With every rising tide,

How the wave washed in his sailor lads, And laid them side by side.

There stepped a stranger to the board:

"Now, stranger, who be ye?"

He looked to right, he looked to left,
And "Rest you merry," quoth he;

"For you did not see the brig go down,
Or ever a storm had blown;
For you did not see the white wave rear
At the rock,—the Eddystone.

"She drave at the rock with sternsails set; Crash went the masts in twain; She staggered back with her mortal blow, Then leaped at it again. "There rose a great cry, bitter and strong,
The misty moon looked out!
And the water swarmed with seamen's heads,
And the wreck was strewed about."

"I saw her mainsail lash the sea
As I clung to the rock alone;
Then she heeled over, and down she went,
And sank like any stone.

"She was a fair ship, but all's one! For naught could bide the shock."

"I will take horse," Winstanley said,
"And see this deadly rock;

"For never again shall bark o' mine Sail over the windy sea, Unless, by the blessing of God, for this

Be found a remedy."

Winstanley rode to Plymouth town
All in the sleet and the snow,

And he looked around on shore and sound As he stood on Plymouth Hoe,

Till a pillar of spray rose far away,
And shot up its stately head,

Reared and fell over, and reared again:
"Tis the rock! the rock!" he said.

Straight to the Mayor he took his way, "Good Master Mayor," quoth he,

"I am a mercer of London town, And owner of vessels three,—

"But for your rock of dark renown,
I had five to track the main."

"You are one of many," the old Mayor said.
"That on the rock complain.

"An ill rock, mercer! your words ring right,
Well with my thoughts they chime,
For my two sons to the world to come
It sent before their time."

"Lend me a lighter, good Master Mayor, And a score of shipwrights free, For I think to raise a lantern tower On this rock o' destiny."

The old Mayor laughed, but sighed alsó; "Ah, youth," quoth he, "is rash; Sooner, young man, thou'lt root it out From the sea that doth it lash.

"Who sails too near its jagged teeth,
He shall have evil lot;
For the calmest seas that tumble there
Froth like a boiling pot.

"And the heavier seas few look on nigh, But straight they lay him dead; A seventy-gun-ship, sir!—they'll shoot Higher than her mast-head.

"O, beacons sighted in the dark,
They are right welcome things,
And pitchpots flaming on the shore
Show fair as angel wings.

"Hast gold in hand? then light the land,
It 'longs to thee and me;
But let alone the deadly rock
In God Almighty's sea."

Yet said he, "Nay, —I must away,
On the rock to set my feet;
My debts are paid, my will I made,
Or ever I did thee greet.

"If I must die, then let me die By the rock and not elsewhere; If I may live, O let me live To mount my lighthouse stair."

The old Mayor looked him in the face,
And answered: "Have thy way;
Thy heart is stout, as if round about
It was braced with an iron stay:

"Have thy will, mercer! choose thy men,
Put off from the storm-rid shore;
God with thee be, or I shall see
Thy face and theirs no more."

Heavily plunged the breaking wave,
And foam flew up the lea,
Morning and even the drifted snow
Fell into the dark gray sea.

Winstanley chose him men and gear;
He said, "My time I waste,"
For the seas ran seething up the shore,
And the wrack drave on in haste.

But twenty years he waited and more,
Pacing the strand alone,
Or ever he set his manly foot
On the rock, — the Eddystone.

Then he and the sea began their strife,

And worked with power and might:

Whatever the man reared up by day

The sea broke down by night.

He wrought at ebb with bar and beam,
He sailed to shore at flow;
And at his side, by that same tide,
Came bar and beam also.

"Give in, give in," the old Mayor cried,
"Or thou wilt rue the day."

"Yonder he goes," the townsfolk sighed, "But the rock will have its way.

"For all his looks that are so stout,
And his speeches brave and fair,
He may wait on the wind, wait on the wave,
But he'll build no lighthouse there."

In fine weather and foul weather

The rock his arts did flout,

Through the long days and the short days,

Till all that year ran out.

With fine weather and foul weather

Another year came in;

"" To take his wage," the weather weight

"To take his wage," the workman said,
"We almost count a sin."

Now March was gone, came April in,
And a sea-fog settled down,
And forth sailed he on a glassy sea,
He sailed from Plymouth town.

With men and stores he put to sea,

As he was wont to do;

They showed in the fog like ghosts full faint,

A ghostly craft and crew.

And the sea-fog lay and waxed alway,

For a long eight days and more;

"God help our men," quoth the women then;

"For they bide long from shore."

They paced the Hoe in doubt and dread:
"Where may our mariners be?"
But the brooding fog lay soft as down
Over the quiet sea,

A Scottish schooner made the port, The thirteenth day at e'en:

"As I am a man," the captain cried,
"A strange sight I have seen:

"And a strange sound heard, my masters all, At sea, in the fog and the rain, Like shipwrights' hammers tapping low, Then loud, then low again.

"And a stately house one instant showed,
Through a rift, on the vessel's lee;
What manner of creatures may be those
That build upon the sea?"

Then sighed the folk, "The Lord be praised!"
And they flocked to the shore amain;
All over the Hoe, that livelong night,
Many stood out in the rain.

And the rolling fog did flee;
And, lo! in the offing faint and far
Winstanley's house at sea!

In fair weather with mirth and cheer

The stately tower uprose;
In foul weather, with hunger and cold,
They were content to close;

Till up the stair Winstanley went,
To fire the wick afar;
And Plymouth in the silent night
Looked out, and saw her star.

Winstanley set his foot ashore:
Said he, "My work is done;
I hold it strong to last as long
As aught beneath the sun.

"But if it fail, as fail it may,
Borne down with ruin and rout,
Another than I shall rear it high,
And brace the girders stout.

"A better than I shall rear it high,
For now the way is plain,
And though I were dead," Winstanley said,
"The light would shine again.

"Yet were I fain still to remain,
Watch in my tower to keep,
And tend my light in the stormiest night
That ever did move the deep;

"And if it stood, why, then, 'twere good,
Amid their tremulous stirs,
To count each stroke, when the mad waves broke
For cheers of mariners.

"But if it fell, then this were well,
That I should with it fall;
Since, for my part, I have built my hear
In the courses of its wall.

"Ay! I were fain, long to remain,
Watch in my tower to keep,
And tend my light in the stormiest night
That ever did move the deep."

With that Winstanley went his way,
And left the rock renowned,
And summer and winter his pilot star
Hung bright o'er Plymouth Sound.

But it fell out, fell out at last,

That he would put to sea,
To scan once more his lighthouse tower
On the rock o' destiny.

And the winds broke, and the storm broke,
And wrecks came plunging in;
None in the town that night lay down
Or sleep or rest to win.

The great mad waves were rolling graves,
And each flung up its dead;
The seething flow was white below,
And black the sky o'erhead.

And when the dawn, the dull, gray dawn,
Broke on the trembling town,
And men looked south to the harbor mouth,
The lighthouse tower was down,—

Down in the deep where he doth sleep
Who made it shine afar,
And then in the night that drowned its light;
Set, with his pilot star.

Many fair tombs in the glorious glooms
At Westminster they show;
The brave and the great lie there in state:
Winstanley lieth low.

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MONITIONS OF THE UNSEEN.