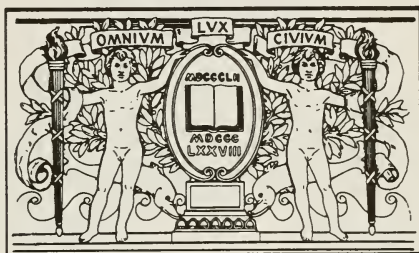




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JAMES CLARENCE MANGAN  
HIS SELECTED POEMS WITH A STUDY BY  
THE EDITOR LOVISE IMOGEN GVINEY



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## The Dedication

*Dear Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, the new Mangan begs to be yours, partly for the gratification of its editor, one of the many who revere you; much more for the sake of the poor poet who helped to endear your distinguished name when he saluted it, fifty years ago, as that of his kindest friend. What the book has tried to be, you will know best. Far away, in your late southern sunshine, among distances, with the old clear-seeing mood ever upon you, may you read it gently!*



## Editor's Note

MANY thanks are due the Reverend J. H. Gavin of S. Charles Seminary, Overbrook, Pennsylvania, for the loan of books, prints, and manuscripts, while this edition of Mangan was in progress. For other favors, and much general furtherance, warm acknowledgments are tendered to the Reverend William Hayes Ward, D.D.; to Mr. Theodore Koch, Esq., of Cornell University Library; Mr. Theodor Guelich of Burlington, Iowa; Messrs. Robert Waters of Linden, and Francis Nugent of Peabody, Massachusetts; Dr. J. J. Mangan of Lynn; Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue; and Miss Dora Sigerson, now Mrs. Clement Shorter, who, besides, drew the portrait used as frontispiece. Owing to the courteous permission of Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., the Editor is able to reprint the Study, contributed some five years ago to *The Atlantic Monthly*, and since greatly revised and enlarged.

Auburndale, Massachusetts, January, 1897.





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James Clarence Mangan

*A Study*





# JAMES CLARENCE MANGAN :

## *A Study*

*"Noi siam vermi  
Nati a formar l'angelica farfalla."*

Purgatorio : Canto X.

### I

ON the principle that "it has become almost an honor not to be crowned," the name of James Clarence Mangan may be announced at once as very worthy, very distinguished. He is unknown outside his own non-academic fatherland, though he bids fair to be a proverb and a fire-side commonplace, much as the Polish poets are at home, within it. Belonging to an age which is nothing if not specific and departmental, he has somehow escaped the classifiers ; he has never been run through with a pin, nor have his wings been spread under glass in the museums. It was only yesterday that Mangan took rank in *The Dictionary of National Biography*, in Miles' *Poets of the Century*, and in a new edition of *Lyra Elegantiarum*. In Allibone's *Dictionary of Authors* he has but hasty mention, and a representation as unjust

as possible in H. F. Randolph's *Fifty Years of English Song*. He is absent from the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Even Mr. J. O'Kane Murray's obese volume, *The Prose and Poetry of Ireland*, has contrived to live without him. Palgrave, Dana, Duyckinck, and the score of lesser books which are kind to forgotten or infrequent lyres, know him not; Ward's *English Poets* has no inch of classic text to devote to him. Nor is Mangan's absence altogether or even chiefly due to editorial shortcomings. The search after him has always been difficult. During his lifetime he published only a collection of translations, and his original numbers were left tangled up with other translations, by his own exasperating hand. A large mass of his work, good, bad, and indifferent, lay hid in old newspaper files, whence some of it has been injudiciously rescued by John McCall, a devoted fellow-countryman; and what was, for a very long time, the only collection drawn from Mangan's store, bearing a New York imprint, and prefaced by John Mitchel's beautiful memoir, has never had a revised issue. In 1884, the Rev. C. P. Meehan brought out a small two-volume reprint of Mangan, better than Mitchel's, and with some freshly-discovered songs. The text in all these books is in an imperfect condition. Beyond them, Man-

gan's work was not accessible in any form, until some of it was put into the Library series brought out by Mr. Duffy and Mr. McCarthy: cheap volumes, intended for the people. Mangan is hardly yet a Book. So it is, and so, perhaps, it must be. Our time adjusts merit with supreme propriety, in setting up Herrick in the market-place, and in still reserving Daniel for a domestic adoration. Apollo has a class of might-have-beens whom he loves; poets bred in melancholy places, under disabilities, with thwarted growth and thinned voices; poets compounded of everything magical and fair, like an elixir which is the outcome of knowledge and patience, and which wants in the end, even as common water would, the essence of immortality. The making of a name is too often like the making of a fortune: the more scrupulous contestants are

“Delicate spirits, pushed away  
In the hot press of the noonday.”

Mangan's is such a memory, captive and overborne. It may be unjust to lend him the epitaph of defeat, for he never strove at all. One can think of no other, in the long disastrous annals of English literature, cursed with so monotonous a misery, so much hope-

lessness and stagnant grief. He had no public ; he was poor, infirm, homeless, loveless ; travel and adventure were cut off from him, and he had no minor risks to run ; the cruel necessities of labor sapped his dreams from a boy ; morbid fancies mastered him as the rider masters his horse ; the demon of opium, then the demon of alcohol, pulled him under, body and soul, despite a persistent and heart-breaking struggle, and he perished ignobly in his prime.

We know nothing of his ancestry ; and can trace to none of its watersheds the stream of tendency in one so variously endowed. There are Mangins buried in the old Huguenot ground in Dublin, from whom Edward Mangin, a writer of much charm, but unknown to fame (1772-1852), was descended. Was our poet possibly derived from the Manians, or clan of Hy-Many, descendants of Maine Mor, who was in the line of Cairbre Liffeachair, King of Ireland in the third century ? Or we may, with reason, conjecture that Mangan had some Norman blood ; for his features were of a decided Norman cast. He was born at number 3 Fishamble Street, the ancient Vicus Piscariorum of Dublin, on the first day of May, 1803. He was the eldest of four children, an early-dying family ; his brother, the only one who survived him, was destined to fol-

low him to the grave during the same month. The father belonged in Shanagolden, Limerick, and was a grocer in fair circumstances when his son was born. The house and shop were the property of the mother, Catherine Smith, a comely member of a respectable farmer's family near Dunsay, in the County Meath. The shop seems to have been soon resigned by the elder Mangan to a brother-in-law, whom he beguiled over from London; and into the receptive hands of the new-comer he is said to have delivered his elder son, and all responsibility for him. James Mangan was a nervous, wilful, tyrannous person, of whom his little ones were afraid. He retired from his business on a competency, but ran through his new estate from excess of hospitality, made his small investments which failed, and died prematurely of the superior disease of disillusion and vexation. The poet, in a posthumously published autobiographical fragment, half-fanciful, half-literal, thus describes him, and exalts or debases him into a Celtic type: "His nature was truly noble; to quote a phrase of my friend O'Donovan, he 'never knew what it was to refuse the countenance of living man'; but in neglecting his own interests (and not the most selfish misanthropes could accuse him of attending too closely to those), he unfortunately forgot

the injuries which he inflicted upon the interests of others. He was of an ardent and forward-bounding disposition; and though deeply religious by nature, he hated the restraints of social life, and seemed to think that all feelings with regard to family connections, and the obligations imposed by them, were beneath his notice. Me, my two brothers, and my sister, he treated habitually as a huntsman would treat refractory hounds. It was his boast, uttered in pure glee of heart, that we would run into a mousehole to shun him! While my mother lived, he made her miserable; he led my only sister such a life that she was obliged to leave our house; he kept up a continual succession of hostilities with my brothers; and if he spared me more than others, it was, perhaps, because I displayed a greater contempt of life and everything connected with it. . . . May God assoil his great and mistaken soul, and grant him eternal peace and forgiveness! But I have an inward feeling that to him I owe all my misfortunes."

Mangan's judgments were gentle. He was never heard to criticise nor blame any one but himself. Yet the experiences of his tragic infancy must have affected the fountain-springs of human feeling. Perhaps he remembered his own nameless antipathy, by contrast, when he

came to render the wistful thought of a dead father in August Kuhn's lonely little wildwood boy:—

“I would rather  
Be with him than pulling roses.”

An odd moody child, he was sent to school in Swift's forlorn and formal natal neighborhood, in Derby Square, off Werburgh Street. There was a master there who had baptized him in Rosemary Lane Chapel, and who loved him; and from him he learned, among other things, the rudiments of Latin and French. But at thirteen or at fifteen (it is impossible to know which), he had to enter the bitter workaday lists of the world, for the support of a family of steadily-sinking fortunes, who, once they found him productive of so many shillings a week, had no mercy for him, and preyed upon him like a nest of harpies. As early as 1817 the talent within him was visibly astir, venting itself in the charades and whimsical rhymes proper to deservedly obscure Diaries and Almanacs. But before he was sixteen, he had printed some noteworthy verses, with all of the faults, and some of the virtues, of his maturer work, and dark already with settled melancholy. This is a fine imaginative passage from the pen of a child:—



“ A dream fell on me, fraught  
With many mingled images ascending  
Up from the depths of slumber :  
Gigantical, voluminous, inblending.”

For seven weary years he toiled at copying, from five in the morning, winter and summer, until eleven at night, through a boyhood which knew no vacations. Mangan shared this hard boyish experience with Samuel Richardson, bound out at thirteen as apprentice to a printer in Aldersgate, and undergoing for seven years an intolerable drudgery. He never uttered, then or after, Mangan's " lyric cry " of protest ; perhaps because he knew that Pamela and her prose were conspiracy-proof, and not to be snuffed out in him. For three years succeeding, the young Mangan was an attorney's clerk, in close air and among vulgar associates, so tortured in every sentient fibre of his being that he affirmed nothing but a special Providence preserved him from suicide. The circumstances of this slavery gnawed into his memory. Isolation of mind was his habit then as afterwards, and long walks at night were his sole relaxation. As he looked back upon the spectacle of his innocent and stricken youth, he was able to record the anguish at which the outer willingness was priced. " I would frequently inquire, though



I scarcely acknowledged the inquiry to myself, how or why it was that I should be called upon to sacrifice the immortal for the mortal; to give away irredeemably the Promethean fire within me, for the cooking of a beefsteak; to destroy and damn my own soul that I might preserve for a few miserable months or years the bodies of others. Often would I wander out into the fields, and groan to God for help: *De profundis clamavi!* was my continual cry."

These were the years when first he took comfort, five minutes at a time, in delightful study; when from pure single-hearted passion he made himself an Oxford out of nothing, and won what is rightly called his "profound and curiously exquisite culture"; when toward the unlovely home, anon removed to Peter Street, and again to Chancery Lane, or the yet unlovelier office, at 6 York Street, he would go softly reciting some sad verses of Ovid which had a charm for him at school, and keeping his mind alive with bookish reverie: a solitary young gold-haired figure, rapt and kind, upon whom no gladness ever broke, and who was alone in any crowd. His genius led him instinctively into scholastic ways. Mr. T. H. Wright, with equal truth and pathos, has thus sung of him:—

—“Not with rude  
Untutored hand Apollo's lyre he smote,  
Tho' by the Furies oftentimes pursued  
In dull delirious flight thro' wastes remote.”

In the parlors of 2 Church Lane, College Green, he found his earliest encouragers; intellectual tipplers, like Tighe and Lawrence Bligh, stood ready to be Mangan's colleagues in worldly paths. A friend betrayed his confidence in some way, and helped him to a sickening foretaste of what his lot was to be. We have no reason to infer, however, that the blow was dealt to so trustful a heart by any of the radiant and erratic Comet Club, of which that interesting person, Samuel Lover, was then a member. Sometime between 1825 and 1835, Mangan had a calamity of the heart. Mitchel's too romantic statement, generally followed, is that Mangan's first love was given to a girl much “above him,” according to our strange surveys; that she encouraged his shy approaches, and he was tremblingly happy; that for the pleasantest period of his life he was in frequent contact with those who made for him his fitting social environment; and that at the moment when he feared nothing, he was scornfully “whistled down the wind.” And the natural inference is that his harsh disappoint-

ment warped the poet's life, and fastened on him his air of irremediable suffering. There is every reason why Mangan should have had a hard lot, and a heavy heart to carry, without being crossed in his affections. In *Grant's Almanack* for 1826, is a poem addressed to him, signed by his old friend Tighe, reproaching Mangan for "the dole that hath too long o'er-cast his soul." He was then twenty-three. It hardly follows that the event in question was already past. All adolescent thinkers, whether lovers or not, experience "dole." In the October of 1832 died Catharine Hayes, of Rehoboth ("the quaint old house with the Syrian name"), a young girl, almost a child, to whom he taught German. It has been said that this was she to whom he was engaged, that the breaking of the tie was an amicable affair of mutual heroism, and that the girl perished, shortly after, of consumption. Let us look into the poetic chronology; for though Mangan, orally, was a most uncomplaining person, he was not altogether reticent, upon paper. *Elegiac Verses on the Early Death of a Beloved Friend* first appeared in *The Comet*, on the tenth of February, 1833. They were unearthed and reprinted by John McCall. Beginning

"I stood aloof; I dared not to behold,"

these tender lines were clearly written out of no vital destroying grief. Ten days later, and also in the columns of *The Comet*, appear from Mangan's pen *Two Sonnets to Caroline*, adorned later by bantering adjectives: *Two Very Interesting Sonnets to Caroline*. They are a-quiver with something: one knows not whether with strong feeling in the perfect tense, or with that dramatic semblance of strong feeling which Childe Harold had made easy to his contemporaries. They are not love-poems. The curious circumstance connected with them is that they figure anew in *The Dublin University Magazine* for January, 1839, as translations from Gellert! and the elegy for C. H., with six stanzas eliminated, emerges, in the April number following, tagged "from the Irish"; and with a colophon in genuine Gaelic super-added. Furthermore, we have to consider a prose paper by "Clarence" in *The Weekly Dublin Satirist*, dated October of 1833. It is called *My Transformation*; the heroine is one Eleanor Campion; a bitterly-conceived sketch, ending in burlesque, it affords minute description of "life's fitful fever." Clearly, Mangan was in a very black Byronic mood indeed circa 1832-3. Little Miss Hayes was in no wise responsible for it; but her dying coincided neatly with the *a posteriori* suspicions of his-

toriographers. As we have seen, he reprinted these melodramatic compositions in 1839: a year when he recurred afresh to the pseudo-subjective vein. Amid the clumsy machinery of the dialogue *Polyglot Anthology*, Mangan produces some rather imprecatory stanzas *To Laura*, or, as afterwards amended, *To Frances*, beginning with a plagiarism from Burns:—

“The life of life is gone and over,”

which would seem to indicate that he stood in no awe of his victress; nor does he fail to mention, with his usual mendacity and presence of mind, that the lyric reproach is taken from the Italian. Beautifully does it close:—

“Adieu! for thee the heavens are bright,  
Bright flowers along thy pathway lie;  
The bolts that strike, the winds that blight,  
Will pass thy bower of beauty by.

“But when shall rest be mine? Alas,  
When first the winter wind shall wave  
The pale wild flowers, the long dark grass,  
Above my unremembered grave.”

It has been taken for granted by some, since the version entitled *To Frances* is less inaccessible than the other, that Frances was the true name of the cruel maid: a most unlikely de-

duction. A recent writer, "R. M. S.," in *The Catholic World* for October, 1888, gives a thoughtful vote of accusation to one Frances Stacpoole. Stackpole, too, is the name independently rescued by Mr. W. B. Yeats from the reminiscences of an aged Anglican Archdeacon. Says Miss Susan Gavan Duffy, in a private letter to the editor (1896): "Margaret, not Frances Stacpoole, was the name of the lady beloved by Mangan; and my Father says you are right in surmising that his blighted-love episode was not so overwhelming a grief as it has been represented to be; for when it was all over and past, Mangan repeatedly took my Father to visit Margaret, and her mother and sister. Of course there is no doubt that the poet was a wrecked and broken-hearted man, though Margaret Stacpoole may be not in the least accountable for his misery." Charles Gavan Duffy had met Mangan, through Carleton the novelist, in 1836. During the very time, therefore, when the poet was still gladly visiting the gentlewomen who kept their kindness for him, he was putting together the highly-colored maledictions which could not possibly have represented his real feeling. That he was, in some sense, disillusioned, and thrown back upon himself, is sure. It is piteous that he had ever hoped for common domes-

tic happiness : his fate could neither achieve it nor sustain it, for an hour. He was ineffably unhappy, and in his loneliness poured his unhappiness into verse. It would be unjust to call his attitude a pose ; for he was sincere. Yet he must have expressed a little more than he felt, as did every poet of that melodramatic generation. And there is some evidence that he knew his lack of discipline. *Stanzas Written in Midsummer* (1839) he rechristened as *Stanzas Which Ought Not to Have Been Written in Midsummer*. They are gruesome pictures of

— “ an undeparting woe  
Beheld and shared by none :  
A canker-worm whose work is slow,  
And gnaws the heart-strings one by one,  
And drains the bosom’s blood, till the last drop be  
gone ! ”

We must remember that a poet’s despair cannot gracefully charge itself to dearth of beef, unpleasant kinsfolk, and headaches out of a morphine phial. Hence woman, and the love of woman, come in as the *causa rerum*, irrespective of proof, even with a Mangan. After his rebuff, he worked back into some show of moral courage and indifferentism ; and it is said that no fair face ever appealed to him again. Other, and more mocking faces, walked



by his side; for his ruin had begun, and the fatal friend of sin clung to him, when the white visions he adored had, one by one, withdrawn.

Henceforth it is not so easy to track him; he seems to have vanished into smoke. His bright hair blanched of a sudden during his first withdrawal from the upper world, and from the fire which burned his fingers. Whatever is known of him has been gathered only with extreme painstaking; his personal history is quite as vague as if he had lived in a hermit's cell eight hundred years ago, when as yet the fine arts of spying and reporting were in the germ. Even to the men who saw him close at hand, he was a stranger. He passed through their company like the ghost of a *séance*, with Dryden's "down look," with soundless speech and gait; whence and whither none could discover. Mangan was a loving student of the mediæval alchemists, and he took for his own the black art of shooting out of darkness into a partial light, and vanishing as soon. He would disappear for weeks and months at a time, and baffle search. It was evident that he mingled, meanwhile, with those who had snapped all links with human society. Nor is he the only poet in English letters over whose head the tides of



despair rose and rolled, that he might so sink, and float, and sink again. We have not forgotten Dr. Johnson's heartfelt lament over Richard Savage, who, not without an inner battle, retired occasionally into chaos, his pension-money in his pocket. "On a bulk, in a cellar, or in a glass-house, among thieves and beggars," says that illustrious friend, "was to be found the author of *The Wanderer*, the man of exalted sentiments, extensive views, and curious observation; the man whose remarks on life might have assisted the statesman, whose ideas of virtue might have enlightened the moralist, whose eloquence might have influenced senates, and whose delicacy might have polished courts." Into such lowest depths of partial insanity did Mangan also die, and out of them, ever and again, he was born, humble, active, clean of heart, by some reparative miracle, his eyes fixed (they, at least, never wavered) on eternal beauty and eternal good.

## II

It is plain on the face of things that he was going the dark way of the opium-eater. Yet this point has been greatly obscured. As early as 1833, Dr. Wall being the Librarian of

Trinity College, Mangan, through the friendly offices of Dr. Todd, who had been attracted by the poet's verses, obtained employment for which he was fitted, and in an atmosphere which came as near as anything could, to making him happy. Trinity was then drawing up her vast new catalogues, and appreciated "the admirable scribe's" assiduity, until, alas, he forfeited her regard. At large among rare folios, Mangan copied for his living, and read for love; losing himself, during the intervals for lunch or exercise, in Matthew Paris, and Calmet's *Dissertatio in Musicam Veterum Hebræorum*. Mitchel's Carlyle-like pen so paints him for us. "The present biographer being in the College Library, and having occasion for a book in that gloomy apartment called the Fagel Library, which is the innermost recess of the stately building, an acquaintance pointed out to me a man perched on the top of a ladder, with the whispered information that the figure was Clarence Mangan. It was an unearthly and ghostly figure, in a brown garment: the same garment, to all appearance, which lasted till the day of his death. The blanched hair was totally unkempt, the corpse-like features still as marble; a large book was in his arms, and all his soul was in the book. I had never heard of Clarence Mangan before, and

knew not for what he was celebrated, whether as a magician, a poet, or a murderer: yet I took a volume and spread it on the table, not to read, but, with pretence of reading, to gaze on the spectral person upon the ladder." This striking description of a man who, it is strange to remember, was then only in his early thirties, is everywhere corroborated, even by those who did not see, as Mitchel did, what the description implied. Mr. James T. Fields once wrote of his meeting with De Quincey: "When he came out to receive me, at his garden gate, I thought I had never seen anything so small and pale in the shape of a great man, nor a more impressive head on human shoulders. The unmistakable alabaster shine, which I had noticed in other opium-eaters, was on his face." Mangan, as reported by all who remember him, as implicated (if one may use that word) in a pathetic posthumous portrait, done in black-and-white, had also "the unmistakable alabaster-shine." All his fitful recluse habits pointed to the same cause. That he had gorgeous visions, his fixed eyes, "lustrously mild, beautifully blue," his strangely-colored poems, his rapt and reticent personality, were so many witnesses. Nor did he escape the penalties intertwined with stolen dreams. "The Gorgon's head," he wrote, "the triple-faced

hell-dog, the handwriting on Belshazzar's palace-wall, the fire-globe that burned below the feet of Pascal, are all bagatelles beside the phantasmagoria which evermore haunt my brain, and blast my eyes." Mangan is looked upon as a drunkard. To what is this singular misconception due? To his own denial of his real folly, and to his complaint that William Carleton had circulated the statement that he (Mangan) was an opium-eater; and likewise to the denial of the Reverend Charles Meehan, who knew the poet well, who survived him until the spring of 1890, and had always a positive statement or two to make, concerning him. Every one knows that the opium practice is never admitted by its victims; secretiveness is its sign-manual. As to the second testimony, it is true so far as it goes. The kind priest never knew Mangan to touch the drug. But then, he knew him rather late. Said Dr. George Sigerson, F. R. U. I., in a recent lecture before the Irish Literary Society: "It has been stated, in a letter given to the public some months ago, that Mangan's writing was extremely irregular and erratic, owing to his drinking habits. O'Daly also had said that the versions of the Munster poets were often brought to him in different-colored inks, indicative of different hostelries or public-houses in which

they were composed. Now the specimens here shown prove that Clarence Mangan wrote a clear, legible, elegant hand, manifest in his earliest and latest manuscripts. The writing in these versions of the Munster poets was all in black ink. Very possibly, they were written in various public-houses, for Dublin offered little open hospitality, while there were no free libraries, and all the squares were closed. In Paris, and in London, many writers have used the coffee-houses. . . . Mangan's handwriting does not present the signs of one whose nervous system is shattered by alcohol." An American physician, a great lover of Mangan, has come to the same conviction, by the process of pure induction. He writes to the present editor (May 17, 1896): "How vain it is to try to see in Mangan the fiery, sensual, besotted look of the alcoholic victim! Opium, too, explains his strange manner of life to any medical mind, which alcohol certainly does not; and I should dearly like to see him freed from the stigma of drunkenness, even though by so doing he had to take his unhappy place with Coleridge and De Quincey." One other point has to be disposed of. In *The Nameless One*, Mangan deplores his own fall into

— "The gulf and grave of Maginn and Burns."

The confession is most inaccurately phrased. It is by poetic license, indeed, that the consequences of other drugs are so visited, before all men, on the known scapegoat head of whiskey. But *The Nameless One* was written in 1842. By that time Mangan had learned intemperance. It is pathologically impossible that a man should be a drunkard and an opium-eater at the same time. The general testimony is that the very smallest quantity of spirits was sufficient to send Mangan on the road to madness. He could never have gratified an appetite for strong drink, did he possess it; for his physical forces were ruined. He may have begun in his youth, on a few occasional grains of opium, with the intent to deaden the pangs of hunger and dejection. Such things have been. And he must have tasted of liquor in the end, as part and parcel of a resolve to break off at any cost from life-long slavery. Between De Quincey, who struggled successfully, and Coleridge, who struggled hardly at all, stands this lonely Irish poet, who struggled in vain. Sometime between his twenty-eighth and his thirty-fifth year he stopped on his downward course, and entered on a new life. Feeble, but not overborne, eager for any help, though it were full of danger, he fell presently on the neck of one



evil, seeking deliverance from another. And whereas, in his former misery, he had cried out in no human ear, he began now to pour forth impotent complaints and promises, after the manner of dipsomaniacs. These are too painful to quote. One marvels how his patient and compassionate friends endured him at all; and that they stood by him even while he evaded and disheartened them, proves that in Mangan, repentant for the moment, survived a spark of the immortal he was, some nameless divine quality which never forfeited reverence. Sighing over him, they may have anticipated the mournful final verdict passed by Stevenson on Burns. "If he had been but strong enough to refrain, or bad enough to persevere in evil! . . . there had been some possible road for him throughout this troublesome world; but a man, alas, who is equally at the call of his worse and better instincts, stands among changing events without foundation or resource." It is the one atoning circumstance, in Mangan's favor, that though his attempt was a foregone defeat, it was a brave fight; he broke himself to pieces in the effort to save his soul alive. His occasional regularity of living, and his deepening religiousness, show that some very powerful influence was at work within him. Is it a stretch of fancy to recur to Margaret Stac-

poole? She must have refused him prior to 1837, and the refusal was perhaps conditional. It may well have been that she was the witness to his vow of reform; and that afterwards, while he came and went with other literary men, in her mother's house, she was gazing through tears, in the pauses of his losing battle, on her poor shattered knight. At any rate, the supposition harmonizes with what we know of his restless, ever-remorseful, light-adoring, and "gloom-o'erdarkened" spirit. Had his passion indeed ended in the short pang of a rude dismissal, as some of his biographers contend, it would have left him more of a man. A hope of marriage, "subdued and cherished long," eclipsed a thousand times by horrible folly and weakness, and flickering on in convalescent dreams, would be the explanation both of much of Mangan's poetry, and of the moral turmoil of all his latter years. Love the saviour was not strong enough to save him. The men who guessed nothing of his true heart-history, and who saw him often and near enough to connect his squalor and despair with a mere common dissipation, were natural contradictors of that earlier allegation, Carleton's or another's, concerning opium. Still less did they disentangle the thing Clarence Mangan was, from the things he kept on



doing. In the sight of the All Wise, he must have approximated not to the suicide, but to the martyr.

He is no subject for biography. Paul Verlaine is his only parallel, were it not that Mangan had no such intense moods of religious mysticism, and none of bestiality. "No purer and more benignant spirit," — it is John Mitchel, again, who speaks, "ever alighted upon earth; no more abandoned wretch ever found earth a purgatory and a hell. There were, as I have said, two Mangans: one well-known to the Muses, the other to the police; one soared through the empyrean and sought the stars, the other lay too often in the gutters of Peter Street and Bride Street. . . . In his deadly struggle with the cold world he wore no defiant air and attitude; was always humble, affectionate, almost prayerful. He was never of the Satanic school, never devoted mankind to the infernal gods, nor cursed the sun." Giving what he could, and asking nothing, genial and gentle to all that lived, he did not lack affection. In his penury, his eccentric habits, his irresponsibilities, he found a distinguished and devoted few to replace his mistaken circle of Church Lane wits: Mr. George Petrie, Dr. Todd, and Dr. Anster, the translator of *Faust*; the Reverend John Kenyon of Temple-

derry, Dr. Gilbert, and especially Charles Gavan Duffy. *The Nation* paid Mangan in advance for the copy he too often forgot to supply; he had a haven in Trinity Library, and another in the Ordnance Survey Office, where he was at peace awhile among topographers and antiquaries, generally the happiest-tempered of men. He might have lived with those who would have appreciated and protected him, but he, for reasons, was too shy and too proud. It pleased him better to sit in the liberty of a garret by William, his invalid brother, sipping tar-water, and, with his delicate smile, watching the other's consumption of the single egg, which was all Apollo's vassal could afford to buy him for a certain Christmas dinner; or to move from lodging to lodging, with his hand-bag and his "large, malformed umbrella," devising how he could redeem his manuscripts, and his Berkleian tar-water, too, left in pawn for the antepenultimate rent. The poor gifted creature was driven more than once to private beggary. We read of him, at another time, as residing in a hay-loft, and eloquently expostulating with the landlady, a person with a syllogistic eye to conflagrations, because she would allow him no candle to write by! Nothing very definite ever happened to him. Always suffering, always

absent-minded and a prey to accidents, he was no stranger to hospitals, and cheerfully asserted that his intellect cleared the moment he entered the ward. Lonely, weak, harassed, scorning precautions, on the ground that there is no contagion "but thinking makes it so," clinging with foolhardy calm to his Bride Street dwelling during the great cholera epidemic, Mangan perished; suddenly and quietly, as the shutting of a glow-worm's little lamp, on the twentieth of June, 1849, his life went out, at the Meath Hospital, Long Lane, whither he had been removed. He was buried in Glasnevin. Three persons are said to have followed his body to the grave. One of these was the Reverend Charles Meehan. The tardily-raised headstone was placed by Mangan's uncle, Mr. Smith.

From Mr. Hercules Ellis we have some distressing details of our poet's last days. "For twenty years," he says in a sympathetic preface to his book, *The Ballads and Romances of Ireland*, "Mangan labored assiduously in his art, gladly accepting for his works payment lower than that given to the humblest menial; and the return for this devotion of his noble genius to the noblest purposes was a life of privation and wretchedness, and an early death caused by want, and cold, and hunger, and nakedness, and every kind of misery."

He goes on to say that, on taking up one of the Dublin newspapers, he was much startled by the announcement of the death of Mangan, of whom he had ever been a warm admirer, though a stranger; and that he reached the Meath Hospital in time to see his body before burial, "wrapped in a winding-sheet, wasted to a skeleton." From the house-surgeon he learned that Mangan, alone and ill, in a wretched room, had been discovered by the officers of the Board of Health, and removed, as a probable victim of the cholera, to the North Union sheds. But the attendant physician recognized him, and found him not infected, but merely starved. "He was immediately transmitted to the Meath Hospital, where everything that skill and kindness could suggest for the purpose of reviving the expiring spark of life was attempted, and attempted in vain. The unfortunate child of genius sank hourly, and died shortly after his admission, exhibiting, to the last, his gentle nature, in repeated apologies for the trouble he gave, and constant thanks for the attentions and assistance afforded him. In his pocket was found a volume of German poetry, . . . in his hat were found loose papers. Laboring to the last in his noble art, striving to obtain a morsel of bread by the production of the finest compositions,

. . . poor Clarence Mangan died; an honor to his country by his writings, a disgrace to it by his miserable fate."

Father C. P. Meehan, whose kind voice, reciting, by request, the Penitential Psalms, was the last sound Mangan heard on earth, also testified, on being questioned many years after, that Mangan died, not from cholera, but from "exposure and exhaustion." Unattended for the moment, it seems that he arose, and got out upon the street, and in his great weakness fell into a pit dug for a house-foundation, and lay there awhile before being rediscovered. Mr. Ellis's account was thought to be sensational when it was published. But there is a grave fear that it was the truth. The conditions, not of one mishap or one moment, which killed Mangan, were those which have visited poets from the earth's beginning, those which the comfortable world, well-clad, well-dined, with its feet on the fender, finds it hard to believe in at all. Whatever nominal and visible cause appeared to end him, amid the terror and confusion of the great cholera outbreak, we may set him down as a victim, foredoomed from his birth,

— "who on the milk of Paradise  
Should have been fed, and swam in more heartsease  
Than there are waters in the Sestian seas."

To the tragic testimony of those who stood at Mangan's bedside, may be added an extract from a letter of Miss Jane Barlow to Mrs. Hinkson (Katharine Tynan), since permission has been accorded to quote it here. "The other day I went to see Miss Margaret Stokes, whose acquaintance I made lately. She was talking about Clarence Mangan, whose friend her father was, as no doubt you know. In fact, he was his last friend. For Mangan had been lost sight of by everybody for a very long time, when, one morning, as Dr. Stokes was going his rounds in the Meath Hospital, the porter told him that admission was asked for a miserable-looking poor man at the door. He was shocked to find that this was Mangan, who said to him: 'You are the first who has spoken one kind word to me, for many years': a terrible saying! Dr. Stokes got him a private room, and had everything possible done for him; but not many days after, he died in Dr. Stokes's arms. Immediately after death, such a wonderful change came over the face that Dr. Stokes hurried away to Sir Frederick Burton, the artist, and said to him: 'Clarence Mangan is lying dead at the Hospital. I want you to come and look at him; for you never saw anything so beautiful in your life!' So Sir Frederick came, and made the sketch which is

now in the National Gallery. I daresay you have heard all this before." Mr. F. W. Burton, as the painter then was, hurriedly drew the pallid head as it lay back on the pillow, old and weary with its forty-six insupportable years: hurriedly, because there was some groundless fear of infection; and from this first small sketch, he made the very touching and striking picture, which Miss Barlow mentions as among the treasures of the Irish National Gallery on Leinster Lawn in Dublin. The original seems to have passed into Father Meehan's hands; and by him was given to its present possessor, the Reverend J. H. Gavin of S. Charles Seminary, Overbrook, Pennsylvania. The larger and more perfect head was beautifully reproduced in *Irish Love Songs*, published by Mr. Fisher Unwin in 1894. There is no truer relic of its class, in the history of English letters; not even among death-masks. And it recalls to mind, would one seek its fellow, Severn's heart-breaking little drawing of the dying Keats. A sad redoubled value attaches itself to this memorial of Mangan, when it is remembered that it was his only portrait. He was too secluded and indifferent to wish his features perpetuated, too little famous to attract artists, too poor to pay them. We have to thank Dr. Stokes and Sir Frederick Burton



alone for the broken reflection of his already vanished spirit. From this famous vignette some half dozen copies have been made; or, rather, basing themselves upon it, these have endeavored to represent the poet as he lived, with no marked technical success, and all, save one, with a significant misconception. Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue, the best authority on everything pertaining to Mangan, says of these attempts: "They are not like him. As they are all deductions, as it were, from the Burton in the National Gallery, they make a curious mistake in assuming that Mangan habitually showed his fine forehead. It was only when he lay dead, with head unsupported, that his forehead was properly seen; for his long hair, which usually fell over it, had then fallen back." This just criticism cannot be extended to the sensitively-pencilled sketch by Dora Sigerson (Mrs. Shorter), which has the tangled locks shadowing the brow, and the studious stoop of Haydon's Wordsworth.

"This is the poet and his poetry."

### III

In *The Nameless One* Mangan lends us an incidental glimpse of two forerunners to whom he was attached. The mention of Maginn has



historic interest ; for he exercised on Mangan's genius a pronounced, though superficial influence. It seems ironic to recall to the present generation of readers the Sir Morgan Odoherty of *Blackwood's*, the star of *Fraser's* and the *Noctes*, now *cinis et manes et fabula*, — the joyous, the learned, the amazing William Maginn, LL.D., who, because he reaped a temporal reward as the most magazinable of men, has all but perished from the heaven of remembered literature. The coupling of his name with that of Burns was, at the given date, obvious. It is not likely that Mangan would have spoken of the ultimate blight of Maginn's great powers while he lived ; and the reference in the poem itself to the age of the author, would tend to fix its composition in the year of Maginn's death, 1842. Profound feeling, as of a personal loss, premonition, as if called forth by the fate of one familiarly known, hang over these rushing strophes, written as they are in the third person. It is clear that Mangan had an enthusiasm for Maginn, hitherto unnoted. His commentary in the *Anthologia Germanica*, in the *Litteræ Orientales*, and in all the imitative raillery of his *Dublin University Magazine* work, with its officious instructive foot-notes, testifies how genuine it was. And the midsummer news from Walton-on-Thames, which struck home to

many who loved wit, and who grieved for might put to no immortal use, hurt also the quiet clerkly figure on the library ladders of Trinity, and added a pang to his opinion of himself. Maginn's is the only influence except, —*longissimo intervallo*— Hunt's and Lamb's, discernible in Mangan's prose. As for some of his early poetry, it is on Coleridge's head. *The Betrothed*, beginning

“A silence reigns in Venice streets,”

has the tone and the motion of *Christabel*. Mangan assimilated later a note of the “pausing harp” of 1797. We are told of the knight who won “the bright and beauteous Genevieve” that so soon as the story faltered on his lips, he

“Disturbed her soul with pity.”

“The song of the tree that the saw sawed through,” says Mangan, after Coleridge,

“Disturbed my spirit with pity,  
Began to subdue  
My spirit with tenderest pity.”

And there is a palpable echo of two famous lines of Shelley, imported into Mangan's version of Schiller's *Bis an des Athers bleichste Sterne* :—

“Fancy bore him to the palest star  
Pinnacled in the lofty ether dim,”

and a reminiscence of *The Sensitive Plant*, in a mention of the darnel and the mandrake as being unfit sister-growths for

—“the proud,  
The hundred-leafèd rose.”

“Lampless” is a favorite word with Mangan, who had admired it, no doubt, in *Epipsyckidion*.

But the man who most powerfully swayed his budding art was not any of these. It seems hardly necessary to state that it was Lord Byron, Byron who once bestrode all young minds,

“As a god strong,  
And as a god free.”

There is nothing more broadly Byronic in the magnific wails of that generation than a certain production of our poet in *The Dublin Satirist* of the fifth of December, 1835. It is amusing to note that the original author's name is given as Johann Theodor Drechsler, one of Mangan's numerous sawdust dollies. He outgrew this influence, as he did every other. In his noble *Pompeii*, lingers the last tone caught from the Childe, already merging into something unlike itself. The *Hymn for Pentecost*, in *The Irish*

*Tribune* for the eighth of July, 1848, is modelled naturally on Schiller's and Byron's lines. It is a pæan of the year of revolution; a plea that Innisfail might not swoon on, while all Europe was awakening from

“The nightmare sleep of nations beneath Kings.”

Mangan had some theoretical knowledge of painting and of music. Though the practical sciences had small attraction for him, in psychic experimentalists, from Paracelsus to Lavater, he took deep interest. For the pages of Swedenborg he had lasting love. It is said of him that even as a boy, his reading could not be prescribed for him. He was a freebooter student, in spirituals and temporals. Of whatever other comfort he was bereft, he had fabulous revenues in his taste for the best books. Browsing habitually among the stalls of the Four Courts, when he could not command a library, Mangan grew intimate with the fathers of English literature. It is curious that he would not, or could not, appreciate the greatness of Burke. His choice of contemporaries was fallible. He cried up Godwin's *St. Leon*, and its author's “forty-quill power,” and approved of *Contarini Fleming*, while the glorious *Waverleys* left him cold. He admired (may he

be forgiven for these vagaries !) Mr. Rogers, and he did not spare jibes to so good a man as Mr. Southey. On the other hand, we find him quoting Balzac, Charles Lamb, and the young Tennyson, and affectionately addressing a friend who sought to uplift him as

“Thou endowed with all of Shelley’s soul,”

at a time when “Shelley’s soul” was still rated below par by the sagacious world which had not known him. Mangan thought, however, that there was “a cloud on Shelley’s character.” It is pleasant to think of the small blonde sprite of 1811 tripping in and out of the Derby Square school, who may have looked more than once, unawares, on Shelley’s boyish self as he went crusading with Harriet through the streets. For whatever Mangan saw or heard, it was from his own contracted orbit at home. He was acquainted with his Dublin

“As the tanned galley-slave is with his oar,”

and it is doubtful if he were ever out of it, except on a dull six weeks’ visit to his uncle’s farm in Kiltale. Mangan says, however, that he found his “Saw-mill” in Rye Valley, Leixlip; and he dated some Italian translations from Liverpool, having apparently induced

Pegasus to ford the Irish Sea for the occasion. Certain Italian poets were all his life very dear to him, Petrarca and Filicaja, and Metastasio in particular.

#### IV

Deep as was Mangan's hope for the welfare of all humanity, he could not be accredited with anything so specific as a political opinion, even in the seething times of O'Connell, till he proved, when the crisis came, that his heart was with the Young Ireland party. In that season of great intellectual enthusiasm, it was natural that an impressionable mind like his should be swept into the wake of Davis, Duffy, Dillon, O'Hagan, Dalton Williams, Pigot, D'Arcy M'Gee, Meagher, and Mitchel. But while the eyes of these men were fixed on their far-off common ideal, the eyes of Mangan were fixed only upon them. They had been kind to him; his soul was sensitively grateful; and he made their convictions his by an act of faith in all he knew of

— “that bright band  
That on the steady breeze of Honor sailed.”

Two among them have written of their uncertainty, lasting for years, regarding their contributor's political feeling; and they were very

careful not to involve his name in their own hopes and perils. We are happy to think of him posing as a rebel and a reformer, although he counts for so little, and looks so oddly misplaced. He dedicated to his country a great deal of middling verse; he meant to consecrate to her new-born aspiration the energies in him which yet survived. Carried away by the warmth of personal allegiance, Mangan offered to become a member of the Irish Confederation, and, later, to follow John Mitchel to prosecution and exile: measures from which his wise leaders, as gentlemen endowed with humor, very gently dissuaded him. Towards 1842, he became touchingly altruistic. He even endeavored to give the benefit of his interest and criticisms to that incomparably well-edited paper, *The Nation*. Whatever he could get, in the way of blocked out translations from the Gaelic, he took, with eagerness, for his poetic purposes, and obtained, during his last year or two of life, considerable insight into his ancestral tongue. Such an ardor, whether or no its results can be called successful, had, in one apart from the common concerns of men, a distinctive moral beauty. So Thoreau, wedded to growing leaves and the golden hues of a squirrel's eye, stood forth from his happy woods, and spoke promptly and



aloud, in the ear of scandalized New England, for John Brown.

Like all Irishmen, Mangan was by nature something of a commentator on public affairs. Many were the squibs and epigrams from his boyish pen; and in *The Belfast Vindicator* he had all the fun he could out of the eternal English misrule. His highest powers, however, refused to be pressed into service, as the angelic standard-bearers of a cause. Instead of singing *The Nation's First Number* (one knows not what he could have done, with such a low-flying materialistic title as that!), he heartily shouted it. *The Irish National Hymn* has emotion and dignity; *A Highway for Freedom* is a good song of its kind. But there are a dozen kindred themes from Mangan's pen which nobody of frail endurance would wish to read twice. There is opulent speechifying, but little poetry, in *The Warning Voice*, *The Peal of Another Trumpet* (with its motto "*Irlande, Irlande, réjouis-toi*," from the prophecies of Mademoiselle Lenormand), and in the one strain typical of all, *The Voice of Encouragement: A New Year's Lay*. The last begins oratorically enough:—

Youths, compatriots, friends, men for the time that is  
nearing!

Spirits appointed by Heaven to front the storm and  
the trouble!



You who in seasons of peril, unfaltering still and  
unfearing,  
Calmly have held on your course, the course of the  
just and the noble,  
You, young men! would a man unworthy to rank in  
your number,  
Yet with a heart that bleeds for his country's wrongs  
and affliction,  
Fain raise a voice too in song, albeit his music and  
diction  
Rather be fitted, alas, to lull to, than startle from  
slumber.

It closes with a lofty abstract image, worthy of  
Mangan, and of the spirit of Young Ireland.

Omenful, arched with gloom, and laden with many a  
presage,  
Many a portent of woe, looms the impending era ;  
Not as of old by comet-sword, gorgon, or ghastly  
chimera,  
Scarcely by lightning and thunder, Heaven to-day  
sends its message.  
Into the secret heart, down thro' the caves of the spirit,  
Pierces the silent shaft, sinks the invisible token :  
Cloaked in the hall the envoy stands, his mission  
unspoken,  
While the pale banquetless guests await in trembling  
to hear it.

Nevertheless, Young Ireland must have found  
him a most useless person. His known gen-

ius and admired achievements floated him over these years of profound stress, when he produced next to nothing of any worth; and when his always gently-remote bearing must have had the value of an anachronism. Fortunately, there were those near at hand to supplant him, the instant he failed. It is not from Mangan that we have *Who Fears to Speak of Ninety-Eight*, and *The Rapparees*. Best of all, there was Thomas Osborne Davis, a patrician tribune, a most lovable and very perfect character, who made rhymes only as a means to an end, yet out-reached any rival whomsoever in that direction, as in others. With such splendid popular ballads of his as *Fontenoy*, *The Sack of Baltimore*, *Owen Roe*, *O'Brien of Ara*, nothing of Mangan (least of all *The Siege of Maynooth*) can compete. Besides, unlike Davis, or his nearest followers, clear-headed young enthusiasts of culture and breeding, Clarence Mangan had no very definite idea of what was the desirable thing to say. While in aiming at the Repeal of the Act of Union, they were content to arouse a manly spirit in the long-oppressed peasantry, by dwelling on the antique glories of the isle and the names of her romantic heroes, nothing would serve Mangan, the one anointed poet among them, but prophecy, calamitous preaching, and the

most prosy insistence on concrete agitation. Worse yet, he was inconsistent: his theories veered and wobbled. He begets generalities Continental in application :—

March forth, Eighteen Forty-Nine !  
 Yet not as marched thy predecessor  
 With flashing glaive, and cannon-peal :  
 Of no law, human or divine,  
 Shalt thou be, even in thought, transgressor.  
 Strike with amaze, but not with steel !  
 Blood enough has flowed, Heaven knows,  
 Even at Freedom's holy shrine ;  
 Not by blowings-up, or blows,  
 Shall conquer Eighteen Forty-Nine.

And again, in *Consolation and Counsel* :—

“ ‘ Knowledge is power,’ not powder. That man  
     strikes  
 A blow for Ireland worth a hundred guns  
 Who trains one reasoner. Smash your heads of  
     pikes,  
 And form the heads of men, my sons.”

Will it do to compare such approved utterances with

“ Your swords, your guns, alone can give  
 To Freedom's course a highway ” ?

Surely, no more drastic urging ever came from Mangan's colleague, the young Speranza

(Miss Elgee, afterwards Lady Wilde), in the famous *Facta Alea Est*. Whether the mood of patience, or that of indignation, at given times, were best for Ireland, is a question apart; what is certain, is that the man who would encourage her simultaneously in both, cancels his value as a public personage, and may well, on the whole, "go back to his gallipots."

It is simple truth to say that Mangan's was a non-conducting mind, up to his very last years. He was "in the sea of life enisled," unwitting of the passions of the human kind. This loneliness of his, this dream-meshed withdrawal, may not have been altogether a congenital condition; for indifferentism is a sure after-growth of the opium garden. Yet he was a born unit. He inhabited a Bagdad of his own, melancholy and fantastic, and with no gates opening on the world of action. No close observer of his earlier life and writing can find in them definite patriotic or religious ardor, or ardor of any sort except the literary. Had Mangan held deep-seated faiths, they could hardly have been in accord, at any rate, with those of *The Dublin University Magazine*, during the years he devoted to its enrichment. That able periodical reeked with the bigotry, arrogance, cruelty, and spite of the dominant social element in the Dublin of sixty years ago.

It was to end such a spirit of faction, *i.e.*, denationalization, that Young Ireland ("Protestant, Catholic, Dissenter: *quis separabit?*") arose. It endeavored to wake the people from an enchanted sleep, in the great name of Justice. It woke Mangan, among others: he put himself forth, in loyal and honorable energy, as an Irishman. He had all manner of new prospects to befit his new character; for he proposed to devote himself, "almost exclusively," to the service of his country. Hence much lamentable prosody: the active poet's meat is the contemplative poet's poison. His translations continued to be, in varying degrees, effective; his original verse became, for the most part, monstrous flat and foggy. He belonged in a cell of his own; it was an artistic error ever to have left it. Yet in leaving it he proved, however feebly, that in his outworn consciousness was the manly spark, albeit he could not, out of his accustomed vaporous abstraction, speak, in the crowd, the efficacious word. He had been too long a recluse, a bookworm, and a leaf in the wind. Poor Mangan, impotently moralizing towards the last, is not the idler

— "full of health and heart  
Upon the foamy Bosphorus; "

but who that loves liberty as well as he loves lyric worth, can be loath to honor him for the fruitless change? It has been remarked concerning Mangan, that though full of personal hopelessness, he was a political optimist. "He always dreamed, mystically enough, after the modern fashion, of a new era just about to dawn upon the world, and of the regeneration of mankind." (And he is a most compensatory singer: "what though," is his ever-recurrent word.) Hungary failed in 1848, Sicily failed, Ireland failed. But there was much healthful havoc. With the final thunder of disparting thrones, dear to Mangan's remote ear, he himself was fated to pass, unconsummated.

## V

Mangan, like Cowley, like Southey and Coleridge, like our friend Goldsmith, between his call on the Bishop (in fatal scarlet breeches) and his attacks on medicine and the law, had a yearning for what he is pleased to call

"The dædal Amazon,  
And the glorious O'hi-o;"

and, like Byron, he pays a lofty compliment to "the single soul of Washington"; but the

possibility of his actually taking passage to Washington's open-doored republic must have looked absurd even to himself. In fact, he never struck at anything, nor "put it to the touch," for the major reason suggested by the Cavalier poet, that he "feared his fate too much." His inertia was due mainly, of course, to the Circean drugs, and partially to his constitutional fragility, and a dull submissiveness which he took, perhaps, to be his duty. He had extreme charity for everybody but Clarence Mangan. It seems superfluous to say that he made no rebellious clutches at life, had no greed. Thinking once of domestic peace, debts discharged, and acknowledged personal value to a community, Goldsmith sighed in a letter to his brother: "Since I knew what it was to be a man, I have not known these things." Worldly wisdom is not a gift left in Irish cradles. It was Mangan's instinct, as it was Goldsmith's, to "hitch his wagon to a star," and presently to discover, without any change of countenance, that his star had no legs, and so to stand, a spectacle for the laughter of men and gods. He was unfair to himself, we know. And the world was unfair to him, and to his industry. It is his chief negative merit that he was duped and driven to the wall. Such weakness, rather than the "push" which re-



ceives superstitious reverence, is advanced civilization; and yet it must not be recommended in hornbooks. Civilized Mangan was, nay, more: unlike "Goldy," he might be called genteel. About the tight coat and the torn stock was an aroma as of wilted elegance, a deceptive aroma of what had never been. His manner had great charm; his voice and smile were winning. With a gliding grace, he wandered around the journalist offices of Trinity Street; after prolonged eclipse, the outcast apparition alighted again in the doorway, and heads of curious clerks bobbed up from the desks. "He looked like the spectre of some German romance," said his most appreciative contemporary. "He stole into *The Nation* office once a week, to talk over literary prospects; but if any of my friends appeared, he took flight on the instant. In earlier days, I had spent many a night, up to the small hours, listening to his delightful monologues on poetry and metaphysics; but the animal spirits and hopefulness of vigorous young men oppressed him, and he fled from the admiration and sympathy of a stranger as others do from reproach or insult." Sir Charles Gavan Duffy also speaks of him, during *The Nation* years, as "so purely a poet that he shrank from all other exercises of his intellect. He cared noth-



ing for political projects. He could never be induced to attend the weekly suppers, and knew many of his fellow-laborers only by name." And once more, as late as 1893, in the course of a private correspondence with a clerical friend and admirer: "Some of the pleasantest evenings of my life were spent with Mangan in a room in the office of *The Morning Register*, I being then sub-editor. Mangan recited verse with singular power: not with the skill of an elocutionist, but with the *élan* of a man of genius; and his memory was inexhaustible. Great ceremonies, splendid feasts, and distinguished personages have faded away from my mind; but these nights with Mangan are still fresh and vivid." Sometimes, if Mangan talked at all, he indulged in a soft, desultory, uncanny soliloquy, in the ear of an old friend. "It was easy to perceive that his being was all drowned in the blackest despair. . . . He saw spirits, too, and received unwelcome visits from his dead father, whom he did not love." In spite of destiny he would anon be gay. There was nothing in him of the roisterer, but his speech was full of sudden witticisms, sly fooling which drew no blood. He could not forbear a bit of satire at the expense of his countrymen, as in his charming claim of the discovery of fire, by Prometheus, five thousand

six hundred years ago, in Kilkenny! The grimmest poem he wrote has its play upon words, at which melancholy game he takes rank with Heine and Thomas Hood, invincibles like himself. "Poor Clarence Mangan, with his queer puns and jokes, and odd little cloak and wonderful hat!" — so his old desk-mate in the Ordnance Survey Office, Mr. W. F. Wakeman, paints him, not without a handsome reference to the huge inevitable umbrella. This implement, says Father Meehan, was "carried like a cotton oriflamme in the most settled weather, and might, when partly covered by his cloak, easily be mistaken for a Scotch bagpipe." Never were clothes so married to a personality; they were as much a part of Mangan as his shining blue eyes, or his quiet, rapid, monk-like step. He had a brown caped cloak in which he seemed to have been born; and the strange antique dismaying hat aforesaid, fixed over his yellow silken dishevelled hair, is set down, to our great satisfaction (in the preface to O'Daly's *Poets of Munster*), as broad-leafed, steeple-shaped, and presumably built on the Hudibras model! Stooped, but not short; wan, thin, and bright; powdery with dust from the upper shelf; equipped with the scant toga precariously buttoned, the great goggles, and the king-umbrella

of Great Britain and Ireland,—such was Mangan, so ludicrous and so endearing a figure that one wishes him but a thought in Fielding's brain, lovingly handled in three volumes octavo, and abstracted from the hard vicissitudes of mortality.

## VI

A lecture on Mangan was lately delivered in Glasgow by Mr. W. Boyle. We learn from a newspaper report that after giving the date of birth, May Day of 1803, this gentleman said further: "You will all remember that some four and twenty years before, upon another May morning, another poet, named Thomas Moore, had been born above another grocer's shop in the same old city. . . . To one, the dignified society of all the great and brilliant of his time, the sweetest bowers on the world's sunniest slopes; to the other, the reeking slum, the evil-smelling taproom, the garret, and the lazar-house. To Moore, the loving admiration of all men, high and low; to Mangan the pitying approval of the few, and even in his own city, the all but complete forgetfulness of the many. And yet some of you will be surprised to learn that Mangan, in the intervals of his employment as a scrivener, and during

the active period of a life disturbed by illness, and not more than half as long, composed almost as many lines of verse as Moore, who devoted all his time and mind and soul to the pursuits of literature." In the matter of mere quantity these two come together, who in all else stand asunder at the poles of the lyric world. Mangan, as may be surmised, made no sustained flights; but there survive from his pen rather more than two thousand short compositions, about half of which are translations, or, in some measure too generously acknowledged, inspired by poems in another language. We may roughly rate his purely original work (the finer half of which, again, he chose to call translation), as numbering fully a thousand pieces. To reprint Mangan in the bulk would be (and one may count that his first stroke of luck!) difficult. It would amount, moreover, to the sin of detraction. The thinnest duodecimo, containing at the most thirty-five poems, would adequately show the quintessence of his gift, to the few whose senses are quick at literary divination. Slight as is the body of Mangan's poetry hitherto printed as his own, he shows in it conspicuous inequality. It is hard to believe that the strophes of *Enthusiasm*, whose opening invocation Clough might have penned, —

“Not yet trodden-under wholly,  
Not yet darkened,  
O my spirit’s flickering lamp ! art thou,”

belong to the same source as certain numbers artfully omitted from this book. But Mangan must have his range: awful when he draws himself up to the Pompeiian or the Karamanian attitude, and something else when he touches Ireland and the peasants’ famine-year, in

“Understand your position,  
Remember your mission,  
And vacillate not  
Whatsoever ensue !”

The majority of his fugitive verses were given to *The Dublin Penny Journal*, from 1832 to 1837; to *The Irish Penny Journal*, started in 1840, for which he wrote much; to *The Nation and The United Irishman*; and to *The Dublin University Magazine*, to which, in his intermittent fashion, he was faithful throughout. He is to be traced under various signatures: The Man in the Cloak, Monos, Lageniensis, Vacuus, The Mourner, A Yankee, Terræ Filius, Wilhelm, J. C. M., Clarence, Clarence Mangan, and James Clarence Mangan. “Throughout his whole literary life of twenty years,” says his patriot friend Mitchel, “he never published a line in any English periodical or through any English bookseller.

He never appeared to be aware that there was a British public to please." Mangan, modest by nature, had schooled himself to the neglect of the critics; no selfish zeal was able to fire him, and he would not have crossed the street to advance his interests. He says roguishly of one of his home-made German poets, "Selber's toploftical disdain of human applause is the only great thing about him, except his cloak." It is just to reflect, also, that he kept from the agreeable ways of publicity in London, because his feelings and associations, so far as they were defined, were republican and hostile, and on the side of his country in her storms of fifty years ago. At any rate, he never burned the permissible candle to Mammon. London, and through her, posterity, are the losers; there would have been, sooner or later, no doubt of his welcome. He was not uncritical. He likened his genius to "a mountain stream," and no analysis could be better, on the whole. His home is on untrodden highlands, in rough precipitous places, where only the Munster shepherd-boys pass with their flocks, and drink of the gushing water, and dream not but that all water tastes the same, the wide world over.

Miserable as Mangan was, he had comfort in his art. On this subject, where so many are loquacious enough, he is dumb. We know

very little of his literary habits, save that he wrote fitfully, and often failed, in his earlier years, to get a farthing's pay. He apologizes for gaps in his various *Anthologiæ*, once by pleading that he had mislaid the last leaves of his manuscript, again by saying that he had not of late found a peaceful hour in which to resume his task. He belied himself by letting men think that this irregularity was due to too convivial nights. On that subject he gives us an epigram.

“Thinkers have always been drinkers, and scribblers  
will always be bibblers ;

Waiter! I solemnly charge you to vanish, and make  
yourself handy !”

## VII

His work, at its worst, has the faults inseparable from the conditions under which it was wrought: it is stumbling, pert, diffuse, distraught. What Mr. Gosse has named the “overflow,” the flux of a line-ending into the next line's beginning, so that it becomes difficult to read both aloud, and preserve the stress and rhyme, — this bad habit of good poets, completely ruins several of Mangan's longer pieces. He had in full that racial luxuriance and fluency which, wonderful to see in their



happier action, tend always to carry a writer off his feet, and wash him into the deep sea of slovenliness. Mangan's scholarship, painfully, intermittently acquired, never distilled itself into him, to react imperiously on all he wrote, smoothing the rough and welding the disjointed. Again, his mental strength, crowded back from the highways of literature, wreaked itself in feats not the worthiest: in the taming of unheard-of metres, in illegal decoration of other men's fabrics, in orthoepic and homonymic freaks of all kinds, not to be matched since the Middle Ages.

He delights in creating oceans of this sort of thing (1835):—

“Besides, of course, heroically bearing  
The speech, half-sneer, half-compliment, of Baring,  
And standing the infliction of a peel  
Of plaudits from Lord Eldon and Bob Peel.”

Or this (1839):—

“The wretch, who rescued from the halter, still  
Will kill,  
Or he, who after trampling tillages,  
Pillages villages,  
Has less of guiltiness than one who when  
Men pen  
Such rubbish as the dullest must despise,  
Cries ‘Wise!’”



What he alleges, with truth, in a posthumous fragment, of Maginn, may be reverted to himself: "He wrote alike without labor and without limit. He had, properly speaking, no style; or rather, he was master of all styles, though he cared for none." The legerdemain he shows in handling our flexible language, is hardly so admirable as it has been said, on excellent authority, to be. His compound rhymes, his unearthly opulent metres, are indeed extraordinary; but their effect is often gained by illegitimate means. Mangan has no philological scruples, no "literary conscience," whatever. Does he need a rhyme, he invents a word, chooses one which is archaic, or gives to a known one some grotesque turn; he has prefixtures and elisions ever on duty; his musicianly ear cannot be relied upon to keep him always clear of English sibilations; he frequently loses his sense of the place and time to stop; and when he attempts recognized forms, as in the sapphics (with breath-catching rhymes!) of his own *Lurelay*, or the alexandrines of Freiligrath's spirited

"Bound, bound, my desert barb from Alexandria!"

the result is somewhat fearsome, to say the least. While a poet subdues technical difficulties by overriding their laws, success so ob-

tained must be ruled out of court. However, a born metrist he was, though a perverse one. From his very first appearances in print, as a young boy, he displays as his essential characteristics, imagination, and the greatest verbal dexterity. A good proportion of his poems are informal exhibitions by a virtuoso, a game of all miracles known to writing man. His best burlesque rivals Butler's and Thomas Hood's, which is the same as saying that it attains the front rank. But we cannot endure mediocre burlesque in the author of *Dark Rosaleen*. His prose, nearly always, is forced, and defaced with tedious puns. The painful mummary of some pages (of which, it is but fair to recall, their author had never the revision, and which should not have been, nor should be reprinted) is not representative of anything but the awkwardness that comes at intervals over Mangan, and stands between him and his angel,

“ When the angel says, ‘ Write.’ ”

As an essayist, despite some fine flashes, he is hardly worth preserving. Nor can it be denied that the same element of restlessness and strain, a sort of alloy from the frightful poverty and degradation nigh it, gets at times

even into much of Mangan's golden poetic work. "Hippocrene may be inexhaustible," he says quaintly, "but it flows up to Us through a pump." Did ever the Virgilian distinction spring from a houseless Muse, half-fed? The marvel, rather, is that the spirit in Mangan so often surmounts the most appalling obstacles known to the human mind.

Mitchel, who had unerring literary acumen, detected in him the conflict of "deepest pathos and a sort of fictitious jollity." At times, he says, the poet breaks into would-be humor, "not merry and hearty fun, but rather grotesque, bitter, Fescennine buffoonery, which leaves an unpleasant impression, as if he were grimly sneering at himself and all the world, purposely spoiling and marring the effect of fine poetry by turning it into burlesque, and showing how meanly he regarded everything, even his art wherein he lived and had his being, when he compared his own exalted ideas of art and life with the littleness of all his experiences and performances." Mitchel was thinking, in all probability, of the ruinous but very clever postlude to *The Broken-Hearted Song*, and the interpolation of Yankee dialect in a lyric raucously beginning,

"O hush such sounds!"

To such spoliations his words apply. But there is a vast deal of facetious excellence in Mangan. Amid less felicitous drollery, the reader can take pleasure in a snatch of triumphant parody on Moore, and a recurring chorus which is a real gold nugget of comic opera : —

“So spake the stout Haroun-al-Raschid,  
With his jolly ugly hookah in his hand ! ”

Will it be believed that Mangan was a choice librettist, without his opportunity? Were he earning his living in the same walk to-day, Mr. W. S. Gilbert might look to his laurels. Some of his nonsense runs for all the world like a Gilbert and Sullivan “topical song,” in long rattling declamatory lines, of wit and animation all compact. Behold the exhumed precursor of *The Mikado* ! The Gilbertian accent is unmistakably prefigured, in Mangan’s humorous hours. Sundry lines need but to put in an appearance at the Savoy Theatre, and be welcomed at once as long-lost fathers, by all the six-time A-major *presto e staccato* tribe modern playgoers know so well : —

“As backward he staggered  
With countenance haggard,  
And feelings as acid as beer after thunder,  
'Twas plain that the dart which had entered his heart  
Was rending his physical system asunder ! ”

and so on; for there is no dearth of it. Let us take *Metempsychosis* as a fair specimen of Mangan's achievement in this direction. It purports to derive its parentage from John Frederick Castelli, "a very select wag," in Klauer-Klatowski's *Popular Songs of the Germans*.

### METEMPSYCHOSIS

I've studied sundry treatises by spectacled old sages  
Anent the capabilities and nature of the soul, and  
Its vagabond propensities from even the earliest ages,  
As harped on by Spinoza, Plato, Leibnitz, Chubb, and  
Toland.

But of all systems I've yet met or p'raps shall ever  
meet with,

Not one can hold a candle to, (*videlicet*, compete  
with)

The theory of theories Pythagoras proposes,  
And called by that profound old snudge (in Greek,)  
metempsychosis.

It seems to me a positive truth, admitting of no modification,  
that the human soul, accustomed to a lodging  
Inside a carnal tenement, must, when it quits one  
body,

Instead of sailing to and fro, and profitlessly dodging  
About from post to pillar without either pause or purpose,

Seek out a habitation in some other cozy corpus;

And when, by luck, it pops on one with which its  
habits match, box  
Itself therein instanter, like a sentry in a watch-box.

This may be snapped at, sneered at, sneezed at; deuce  
may care for cavils!  
Reason is reason. Credit me, I've met at least one  
myriad  
Of instances to prop me up: I've seen upon my  
travels  
Foxes who had been lawyers at, no doubt, some former  
period;  
Innumerable apes, who, tho' they'd lost their patro-  
nymics,  
I recognized immediately as mountebanks and mimics;  
And asses, calves et cetera, whose rough bodies gave  
asylum  
To certain souls, the property of learned professors  
whilome.

To go on with my catalogue, what will you bet I've  
seen a  
Goose, that was reckoned, in her day, a pretty-faced  
young woman?  
But more than that. I knew at once a bloody-lipped  
hyena  
To have been a Russian marshal, or an ancient em-  
peror. (Roman.)  
All snakes and vipers, toads and reptiles, crocodiles  
and crawlers,  
I set down as court sycophants or hypocritic bawlers;

And there, I may've been right or wrong, but nothing can be truer

Than this, that in a scorpion I beheld a vile reviewer !

So far, we've had no stumbling-block. But now a puzzling question

Arises. All the afore-named souls were souls of stunted stature,

Contemptible or cubbish ; but Pythag. has no suggestion

Concerning whither transmigrate souls noble in their nature,

As Homer, Dante, Shakespeare, Schiller ! These now, for example,

What temple can be found for such appropriately ample ?

Where lodge they now ? Not, certes, in our present ninny-hammers

Who mumble rhymes that seem to've been concocted by their grammars.

Well, then, you see, it comes to this : and after huge reflection

Here's what I say ! A soul that gains, by many transmigrations,

The summit, apex, pinnacle, or acme of perfection, There ends, concludes, and terminates its earthly peregrinations ;

Then, like an air-balloon, it mounts thro' high Olympus' portals,

And cuts its old connections with mortality and mortals.



And evidence to back me here I don't know any  
stronger  
Than that the Truly Great and Good are found on  
earth no longer !

As it is not within the scope of this book to amass Mangan's comic poetry, we may cull here perhaps, in passing, three more characteristic samples of it, the last of which, once more, is a fantasia on the jolly German *Burschenlied*, which Mangan translated in conjunction with Gustav Schwab's almost equally good *Bursch's Departure from College*. This original epigram celebrates the author's personal appearance.

“I, once plump as Shiraz' grape,  
Am, like Thalbh of thin renown,  
Grown most chasmy, most phantasmy,  
Yea, most razor-sharp in shape !  
Fact : and if I'm blown thro' town,  
I'll cut all the sumphs who pass me.”

### A FAST KEEPER

My friend, Tom Bentley, borrowed from me lately  
A score of yellow shiners. Subsequently  
I met the cove, and dunned him rather gently.  
Immediately he stood extremely stately,  
And swore 'pon honor that he wondered greatly !  
We parted coolly. “Well,” (exclaimed I ment'lly,)



"I calculate this isn't acting straightly :  
You're what slangwhangers call a scamp, Tom Bentley !"

In sooth, I thought his impudence prodigious,  
And so I told Jack Spratt a few days after ;  
But Jack burst into such a fit of laughter !  
"Fact is," said he, "poor Tom has turned religious."  
I stared, and asked him what it was he meant.  
"Why, don't you see ?" quoth Jack. "He keeps the  
Lent."

## THE MAKING OF A FRESHMAN

*Burschen.*

Very good, very good : he is ripe !  
So let him fill up a pipe,  
So let him fill up a smokified pipe,  
    (Ho, ho !  
    A smokified pipe.)  
So let him fill up a mighty old pipe.

*Fuchs.*

Ugh ! take it away from me quick !  
Ugh, hog-sties ! it makes me so sick,  
Ugh, hog-sties ! it makes me so smokified sick !  
    (Ho, ho !  
    Dim smokified sick.)  
Ugh, hog-sties ! it makes me so mighty old sick !

*Burschen.*

Then let the cub sneak to his den,  
And let him not smoke it again !

No, let him not smoke with us smokified men,  
    (Ho, ho!  
    Dim smokified men.)  
And let him not smoke with us mighty old men.

*Fuchs.*

There, now ! . . . I am rid of the spell ;  
There, now, I again am all well ;  
There, now ! I am smokified well :  
    (Ho, ho !  
    Am smokified well.)  
Hurrah ! I again feel mighty old well !

*Omnes.*

So grows the Wild Fox a Bursch,  
So grows the Wild Fox a Bursch,  
So grows the Wild Fox a smokified Bursch !  
    (Ho, ho !  
    A smokified Bursch.)  
So grows the Wild Fox a mighty old Bursch !

For a riotous college-song this passes muster. (Innocent Foxling, never to have smoked before ! Or was there an unholy substance in that bowl ?)

## VIII

Mangan had not been given for nothing his title to the Erin of song. He atoned to the venerable tongue he could neither speak nor

understand, by making it articulate in the hearing of the invader. Running into twilight fields of his own, as was his wont, he dedicated exquisite work, albeit a trifle schismatical, to the ancient literature of his country, in the day of its last splendid but brief revival. Several scholars, among them the great Eugene Curry of Mr. Matthew Arnold's admiration, furnished Mangan, toward the end of his life, with literal drafts in English of the many ballads taken down from the lips of the peasants, which he was to render for publisher O'Daly of Anglesea Street and for the Gaelic and Archæological societies; and within these outlines he built up structures not untrue to their first design. Mr. J. H. Ingram, editing Mangan's twelve poems for the third volume of Mr. Alfred H. Miles's collection, *Poets of the Century*, and basing all his facts, if not his judgments, on Mitchel, calls these renditions from the Irish "spiritless." Some persons may think that there is a breathless grandeur in Mangan's chanting of the hymn of Saint Patrick, *At Tarab To-Day*, and that a less "spiritless" thing never came into being. It was with such deep-mouthed apostrophes that he was best fitted to cope. He was able to try them again in a translation sacred to war, as the other is sacred to Christian peace: *O'Hussey's Ode to The Maguire*: rude

heroic strophes bursting from the heart of the last hereditary bard of the great sept of Fer-managh, as late as the reign of Charles the First, while the courtly lyres of England were tinkling a cannon-shot away. Quite as good as these, in its province, is the sarcastic rattle of *The Woman of Three Cows*. *My Dark Rosaleen* is worth them all, "on a pinnacle apart." It was written by a worthy contemporary of Shakespeare, an unknown minstrel of the Tyrconnell chief, Aodh Na Domhnaill (Hugh Roe, or the Red, O'Donnell), who put upon the lips of his lord, as addressed to Ireland, the love-name of "Roisin Dubh," the Black-Haired Little Rose. More exact versions of this symbolic masterpiece have since been made, but the stormy beauty of Mangan's lines does away with considerations of law and order. From an extract such as "Over hills and hollows I have travelled for you, Roisin Dubh! and crossed Loch Erne in a strong wind; far would I go to serve my flower; . . . but the mountains shall be valleys and the rivers flowing backward before I shall let harm befall my Roisin Dubh," the poet draws the second, fifth, and last stanzas of his noble seven, the fifth of these, the passage about "holy delicate white hands," being a pure gratuity, like a foam-ball on the stream.

Since *My Dark Rosaleen* is perfect, its genesis cannot be uninteresting. The original literal English of it is to be found in the Egerton MSS. in the British Museum. The song (it was, rather, a group of traditional songs) figures in James Hardiman's *Irish Minstrelsy, or Bardic Remains of Ireland* (1831). Hardiman's translators, Messrs. Dalton, Furlong, Curran, and others, were learned gentlemen of much disinterestedness, giving their leisure to the work, who yet felt it necessary to condone, quite as if they belonged to the eighteenth century, the "barbarity" of the antique phrases, and to foist upon them modern smoothness and circumlocution. *Roisin Dubh* may or may not be, as has been claimed for it also, a personal and passionate old love-song. (To the peasantry of to-day it is that only.) The opening and the close seem to bear out strongly the theory held by most scholars, that it is the allegory of proscribed patriots, who dared not directly address their unhappy country. During this war of the northern clans against Elizabeth, as during the Jacobite insurrections, Ireland was, as the gallant song has it of the MacGregors, "nameless by day." The allusions to Rome and Spain refer to aid promised from both quarters. The unadulterated "prose poem" follows, in full:—

O rosebud, let there not be sorrow on you on account  
of what happened you!

The friars are coming over the sea, and they are  
moving on the ocean;

Your pardon will come from the Pope and from  
Rome in the east,

And spare not the Spanish wine on my Roisin Dubh.

The course is long over which I brought you from  
yesterday to this day.

Over mountains I went with you, and under sails  
across the sea;

The Erne I passed at a bound, though great the flood,  
And there was music of strings on each side of me  
and my Roisin Dubh.

You have killed me, my fair one, and may you suffer  
dearly for it!

And my soul within is in love for you, and that  
neither of yesterday nor to-day;

You left me weak and feeble in aspect and in form;  
Do not discard me, and I pining for you, my Roisin  
Dubh!

I would walk the dew with you, and the desert of the  
plains,

In hope that I would obtain love from you, or part of  
my desire.

Fragrant little mouth! you have promised me that  
you had love for me:

And she is the flower of Munster, she, my Roisin  
Dubh.

O smooth rose ! modest, of the round white breasts,  
You are she that left a thousand pains in the very  
centre of my heart.

Fly with me, O first love ! and leave the country :  
And if I could, would I not make a queen of you,  
my Roisin Dubh ?

If I had a plough, I would plough against the hills,  
And I would make the gospel in the middle of the  
Mass for my Black Rosebud :

I would give a kiss to the young girl that would give  
her youth to me,  
And I would make delights behind the fort with my  
Roisin Dubh.

The Erne shall be in its strong flood, the hills shall  
be upturn,

And the sea shall have its waves red, and blood shall  
be spilled ;

Every mountain-valley and every moor throughout  
Ireland shall be on high,

Some day, before you shall perish, my Roisin Dubh.

No fewer than three times did Mangan try  
his hand at this truly bardic fragment. The  
first experiment was a happy one : yet our  
skilled reviser was not satisfied with it.

Since last night's star, afar, afar,  
Heaven saw my speed ;

I seemed to fly o'er mountains high  
On magic steed.  
I dashed thro' Erne! The world may learn  
The cause from love:  
For light or sun shone on me none,  
But Roisin Dubh.

O Roisin mine, droop not, nor pine;  
Look not so dull!  
The Pope from Rome shall send thee home  
A pardon full;  
The priests are near: O do not fear!  
From heaven above  
They come to thee, they come to free  
My Roisin Dubh.

Thee have I loved, for thee have roved  
O'er land and sea;  
My heart was sore, and evermore  
It beat for thee;  
I could not weep, I could not sleep,  
I could not move!  
For night or day I dreamed away  
Of Roisin Dubh.

Thro' Munster land, by shore and strand,  
Far could I roam,  
If I might get my loved one yet,  
And bring her home:



O sweetest flower that blooms in bower,  
Or dell, or grove !  
Thou lovest me, and I love thee,  
My Roisin Dubh.

The sea shall burn, the earth shall mourn,  
The skies rain blood,  
The world shall rise in dread surprise  
And warful mood,  
And hill and lake in Eiré shake  
And hawk turn dove,  
Ere you shall pine, ere you decline,  
My Roisin Dubh !

Accordingly, we find a second version by Mangan in *The Poets and Poetry of Munster* from which we take the four last verses : —

In years gone by, how you and I seemed glad and  
blest :  
My wedded wife, you cheered my life, you warmed  
my breast !  
The fairest one the living sun e'er decked with sheen,  
The brightest rose that buds or blows, is Dark  
Roisin.

My guiding star of hope you are, all glow and grace,  
My blooming love, my spouse above all Adam's  
race :  
In deed or thought you cherish naught of low or  
mean ;  
The base alone can hate my own, my Dark Roisin.

O never mourn as one forlorn, but bide your hour ;  
Your friends ere long, combined and strong, will prove  
their power.

From distant Spain will sail a train to change the  
scene

That makes you sad, for one more glad, my Dark  
Roisin.

Till then, adieu, my fond and true, adieu till then !  
Tho' now you grieve, still, still believe we'll meet  
again ;

I'll yet return with hopes that burn, and broadsword  
keen :

Fear not, nor think you e'er can sink, my Dark  
Roisin !

The theme had taken hold of Mangan's imagination. Last of all, in 1845 or after, with the right mood of selection upon him, and with the warm consciousness at heart of the docility of the one style he had made his own, the poet fused together the best in the *Roisin* ballads, and broke into the inebriating music of *My Dark Rosaleen*.

It is, let us say, the most original of them all. The manner, too, is all Mangan's ; its noteworthiest feature being the rich recurrence of words and lines for which *Roisin Dubh* gives no warrant, and to whose examination we shall return when we come to speak of Poe. Be-

tween *My Dark Rosaleen* and the preceding lyrics made from *Roisin Dubh* by the same hand, is a difference: all the difference there can be between things cunningly wrought, and the thing divinely inspired.

Of this translation, and of two or three others from a kindred source, Mr. Maurice Leyne wrote in a supplement to *The Nation*, long ago: "Their beauty can scarcely be exaggerated. To compare with them any actual remains which we have of the Jacobite poetry would be extravagant. They are what an Irish bard might have written if to the deep vague love of country, the longing, the dreaminess, the allegoric expressions of his art, were added all that modern culture can give of distinctness of feeling and sequence of idea. We have other poets who have caught with wonderful fidelity and felicity the Gaelic turns of thought and the structure of the language; but in Mangan the very Gaelic heart seems poured out." Mangan, however, was not always a successful conductor of sounds reaching him obliquely, through the stout persons of Irish scholars. Certain numbers, such as *O'Hussey's Ode*, and *Prince Aldfrid's Itinerary*, are modelled, with the most astonishing closeness, on faithful unrhymed renditions in *The Penny Journal* (1832) and *The University Magazine* (1834). But no

critic can set Mangan's flat and passionless *Eileen Aroon* beside the wonderful strain of Carroll O'Daly, or prefer *The Fair Hills of Eiré*, O, charming as that is, to Sir Samuel Fergusson's

"A plenteous place is Ireland for hospitable cheer," which has the advantage, in this instance, of greater literalness. And comparison is least possible between the two native translators, when it comes to the *Boatman's Hymn*, yet sung, in vernacular snatches, off the wild western coast. Not only is the Fergusson version a hundred-fold more pleasing, but it is, in equal measure, more Gaelic. It rushes along like the wind scooping the dusky Kerry sails.

"Bark that bears me thro' foam and squall!  
'Tis you in the storm are my castle wall.  
Tho' the sea should redden from bottom to top,  
From tiller to mast she takes no drop.  
On the tide-top, the tide-top,  
Wherry *aroon*, my land and store!  
On the tide-top, the tide-top,  
She is the boat can sail *go leor*."

How does Mangan start off with this finest of open-air themes?

"O my gallant, gallant bark!  
Oft, a many a day, and oft

When the stormy skies above are dark,  
And the surges foam aloft,  
Dost thou ride  
In thy pride  
O'er the swelling bosom of the sea;  
Tho' lightning flash  
And thunder crash,  
Still, my royal bark, they daunt not thee.  
Yeo-ho, yeo-ho!  
The bar is full, the tide runs high.  
So! ready hand, and steady eye,  
And merrily we go."

And at the close, in the apostrophe to the Atlantic crag (which one poet salutes as

"Whillan ahoy! old heart of stone,"

and the other, *more suo*, as

"Dark Dalán, colossal cliff,")

as well as in the whimsical outcry of the fishermen terrified at the speed of "Wherry *aroon*," it is easy to decide which translator attains to the sailor-like and singable, and which remains merely literary. I cannot think that Sir Samuel Fergusson ever yielded, in power of interpretation, to Mangan, in any single case where they chose to handle the same originals. Despite it, we have not from him, nor could we have had, a *Dark Rosaleen*. Mr.

Maurice Leyne, in the illuminating article quoted a moment ago, speaks of Mangan's as a typically Irish temperament: "a temperament," according to another sociologist, "which makes both men and nations feeble in adversity, and great, gay, and generous in prosperity." Is he so generic? It is impossible to think of any class or race of Mangans. Like Swaran in *Ossian*, he "brings his own dark wing," whereas some readers have asked for references, antecedents, certificates. Or perhaps, to say that such a one is Celtic, is to put him back among the indescribables. One Wilson, a phrenologist, made in the February of 1835 a professional examination of Mangan's beautifully-shaped head, with this recorded result. "Constructiveness is hardly developed at all; on which account he would not have a genius for mechanism or invention generally, but he would possess the power of magnifying, embellishing, and beautifying in the highest degree. A tendency to exaggerate and amplify would pervade whatever he undertook." Here we have, disguised as a communication from the physical sciences, a remarkable bit of literary criticism. The verdict is perfectly true, though opium had helped to make it so. Mangan was not least Irish ("Oriental" Irish) in this, that he loved expansions and dilutions,

and could not forbear yoking quantity with quality. A hypochondriac too odd to be susceptible of classification, he is

—“like almost anything,  
Or a yellow albatross !”

And eccentricity itself is a purely Celtic property. Strange that his genius is happier on Saxon than on Celtic ground !

## IX

Mangan's chief passion was for the Germans, then in their æsthetic flowering-time ; he herded by instinct with these contemporaries best fitted to be his guides and friends. Constant immersion in the strong stream of their thought (for he read endless German metaphysics as well as German poetry), colored his intellectual life. He knew no stronger influence. “*Meines Herz Richter*,” he calls John Paul. Mangan's only book published during his lifetime was the *Anthologia Germanica*, which, having run its course in a magazine, was printed (without its prose passages) at Gavan Duffy's expense, in 1845. Some of the lyrics included have a transmitted truthfulness, as of a ray through clear glass. Even Schiller's great note is echoed, now and then, with absolute iner-



rancy. There are few finer illustrations of aural sensitiveness in a translator than Mangan gives us in the eleventh and twelfth stanzas of *Der Gang nach dem Eisenhammer* (*The Message to the Foundry*).

Da ritt in seines Zornes Wut  
Der Graf ins nahe Holz,  
Wo ihm in hoher Oefen Glut  
Die Eisenstufe schmolz.  
Hier nährten früh und spät den Brand  
Die Knechte mit geschäft'ger Hand;  
Der Funke sprüht, die Bälge blasen,  
Als gält' es, Felsen zu verglasen.

Des Wassers und des Feuers Kraft  
Verbündet sieht man hier;  
Das Mühlrad, von der Flut gerafft,  
Umwälzt sich für und für.  
Die Werke klappern Nacht und Tag,  
Im Lakte pocht der Hämmer Schlag,  
Und bildsam von den mächt' gen Streichen,  
Muss selbst das Eisen sich erweichen.

---

At once into a neighboring wood  
The Count in frenzy rode,  
Wherein an iron foundry stood  
Whose furnace redly glowed.  
Here, late and early, swinking hands  
Fed volumed flame and blazing brands,  
While sparkles flew and bellows roared,  
And molten ore in billows poured.



Here waves on waves, fires hot and hotter,  
In raging strength were found;  
Huge mill-wheels, turned by foaming water,  
Clanged, clattering, round and round.  
Harsh engines brattled night and day;  
The thunderous hammer stunned away  
With sledgeblows blended, which descended  
Till even the stubborn iron bended.

*The Maid of Orleans* finds its very self again in Mangan's English; so does *The Fisher*; Rückert's enchanting *Das Eine Lied* (*Nature More than Science*), Uhland's *Lebe wohl, lebe wohl, mein Lieb*, and *Alexander and the Tree*: these wed literalness to beauty, in their own established metre. Half a dozen times, he so touches the achievement set before him; nay, rivals it, as he certainly does in the magical simile about "the piping notes of the coppice bird," closely inwrought with Kerner's song of praise to Uhland for his book: a song really as fresh and rushing in Mangan as in the original, and far more prodigal of music. Many pages are simple, spontaneous, choice. But when all is said, the *Anthologia* is a kaleidoscope, rather than a mirror. The majority of these German poems, being what the Irish ones are not, the children of conventional art, suffer more from Mangan's swervings and strayings. He treats his great victims pretty much as Burns, with

every justification, treats the floating Scotch ballads: he adjusts, he reverses; into his old material he infuses a novel substance. In scarcely any instance is he content to keep a poem's given title; and upon it he can foist foreign matter, with an almost criminal restlessness. If he need not confess, with the Sir E—— B—— L—— of *Bon Gaultier*:—

“I’ve hawked at Schiller on his lyric throne,  
And given the astonished bard a meaning all my own,”

at least he may well be pardoned for his all-too-generous doings elsewhere: for Clarence Mangan seldom detracts from the Muse he professes to follow; his unfaithfulness is in quite another category. Having satisfied you with what exquisite attentiveness he can follow his exemplars, he hastens to show how variously, how cunningly, and how effectually he can run away from them. The single fact of his having transformed the hard-hearted Kunegund of *Die Begrüssung auf dem Kynast* (*The Ride Around the Parapet*), into the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne, trumpeting her to and fro with splendid corroborations, is indicative enough of his habits. Mangan takes under protest, though his endeavor is always to make you think him a great assimilator and economist; but he is a prodigal giver. He hates the niggardly hand,

as much as Horace does, and he cares not a straw how much of himself he throws away at his game of setting up a poet in whom he has no special interest, and who is often his inferior. This is, indeed, as a severe reviewer named it at the time, a "vicious system"; and it cannot be justified by the undeniable fact that Mangan imports into his subject an illicit beauty. The Germans who had most verbal compression, who are most set upon a calm statement of things, are those who suffer most from Mangan's exuberant hullabaloo. Yet sometimes in himself, when he is improvising, and does not feel bound to keep step for step, is a compression very remarkable, and a calm more profound than their own.

The best known, and certainly the loveliest, of his shorter German translations is Rückert's ghazel, *Und dann nicht Mehr*. Even here, where he keeps, physically, rather close to his pensive model, he adds metaphor after metaphor, many a lyrical wail, and a heart-stopping pathos all unwarranted and new; he seems to blight and then revivify everything he touches. Scores of times, as in Wetzel's *Sehnsucht*, itself very like Mignon's immortal song of the far-off land and of the spiritual longing to turn thither, Mangan deliberately transposes and varies his theme. He matches Wetzel's graceful eight

lines with twenty-five of his own, melodiously overlapping, and of extraordinary sweetness, in which

“Morn and eve a star invites me,  
One imploring silver star,  
Wooes me, calls me, lures me, lights me,  
To the desert deeps afar,”

with a persistence remote as the “imploring star” itself from good Wetzel’s imagination. Still more transformed are the wild and moving measures of *The Last Words of Al Hassan*, which purport to belong to “one Heyden, a name unfamiliar to our ears,” and to be found in Wolff’s *Hausschatz*, “the repertory of an incredible quantity of middling poetry.” Mark the artful depreciation of the German volume, as if to fright a possible speculator in Manganese! If any one hungers for a thorough insight into Mangan’s method, he cannot do better than to open the bulky *Hausschatz* (in all of whose editions, however, *Hassan*, by Friedrich August von Heyden, does not figure), and read over the six stanzas of stout commonplace which contain the straightforward remarks of a worsted Bedouin. Not a reference in them does Mangan reproduce, except the profaned Kaaba, the “black-ringleted” unfaithful mistress, the desert wind.

He throws away Heyden's deserted tents, the captive women, the wounded and weary horses, the scattered sheep and shepherd: all the imagery of war and defeat which carry out a pictorial and romantic tradition. What he substitutes is so utterly alien to these that no human being could refer it to Heyden's *Hassan* at all, unless Mangan had chosen to indicate the source of his inspiration. Heyden ends:—

“Nimm bin dies letzte Grüßen.  
Was kam hat kommen müssen:  
Nur Allah's Macht besteht;  
Gelobt sei der Prophet!”

This is worth while being considered as the sub-structure of

“The wasted moon has a marvellous look  
Amiddle of the starry hordes;  
The heavens, too, shine like a mystic book  
All bright with burning words;  
The mists of the dawn begin to dislimn  
Zahara's castle of sand:  
Farewell, farewell! Mine eyes feel dim,  
They turn to the lampless land,  
'Llah Hu!  
My heart is weary, mine eyes are dim;  
I will rest in the dark, dark land.”

Mangan's *Hassan*, moreover, is richly embroidered with geographical detail. He had a

fine sense for the uses of proper names, and displayed vague attractions for the region afterwards surveyed by Mr. Matthew Arnold, whose yellow Oxus and star-lighted Aral Sea no reader of this generation is likely to forget. But ἀκριβεία, unerring nicety founded on forethought and research, was not among Mangan's natural virtues. He invents neighborhoods and coasts; he couples cheerfully towns two thousand miles apart, and even reaches over into another continent for a gem of a substantive to deck his languorous Asian lines. But poetry, after all, is so much finer than gazetteers! he seems to insinuate.

The truth is, Clarence Mangan is no translator at all. He is dominated by his own genuine erratic force, which thrived under evil conditions, and had no clear outlet; and he cannot contain the ebullition of his natural speech even in the majestic presence of Goethe. His mind is not serviceable; he can give an able and courteous co-operation only when the demigod chances to agree with his native fire. The most striking internal evidence that he had not in him the first instinct of the translator, is that he approaches Heine (whose abrupt beauty, if indeed it be conveyable at all, Mangan in his trustier mood was curiously well fitted to convey into English), in order to

appraise him as "darkly diabolical," and to deplore his "melancholy misdirection of glorious faculties." As it was, Mangan wasted on the dreams of anybody else the time he was forbidden to devote to the inspirations of his own brain. It was his misfortune, his punishment also, that with the early loss of enthusiasm, and "that true tranquil perception of the beautiful," which, as he himself feelingly says of an elder writer, "a life led according to the rules of the divine law alone can confer on man," there came an autumnal decadence: a sinking from the exercise of the creative faculty to that of the critical; a relinquishment of the highest intellectual mood, which was his birth-right, for that of the spectator, the sceptic, the jaded philosopher. He recanted his belief in his own powers, and having done that, he held a false but consistent way. The things he accomplished in literature have the look of accidents and commentaries, as he wished; the pride of his whole shadowed career was to figure in a mask unworthy of him. In such a spirit of evasion he took to his inexplicable trade of translating: accepting a suggestion, and scornfully elaborating it, or ironically referring to the gardens of Ispahan his own roses, whose color seemed too startling for the banks of the Liffey.



## X

The question of Mangan's Oriental "translations" is one of keen interest. He is not known to lovers of poetry, because he played tricks masterly as any of Chatterton's, and because, unfortunately for the vindication of his genius, his tricks have never been discovered and explained, when they were suspected; and some who have written of him have left it to be inferred that he was more of a wiseacre, and less of an organic force, than he was. His obliging labor of transposing the Welsh, Danish, Frisian, Swedish, Russian, and Bohemian (for he solemnly pretends to deal in all of these) is pure *blague*. If Mangan had had the polyglot acquirements of his adored Maginn and of Father Prout, he would have rivalled their gigantic jokes on the general reader. Latin and three of the current European tongues he knew, though not with equal thoroughness, and he quoted Greek, possibly at first hand. He had exceptional opportunities, in the library of Trinity, for linguistic study, and once went out of his way to bear witness that our own tongue is nobler than them all; but it seems plain that he was no better versed in the eldest literatures than in Gaelic. He was not, of course, absolutely



ignorant of their nature. In an elegy on Sarsfield, put into English, Mangan singled out two lines of primitive vehemence touching the slain Jacobite general, Jerome; and after giving the original Irish in a footnote, he adds: "This is one of those peculiarly powerful forms of expression to which I find no parallel except in the Arabic language." So that he would, presumably, have us believe he knew what Arabic was made of, even if he could not parse it. In this same spirit, he once gravely contradicted the dean of Orientalists, Sir William Jones. And again, in the course of a contemptuous review in *The Dublin University Magazine* for March, 1838, he breaks off with — "Enough of so ungracious a theme." (The theme is Hammer-Purgstall's *Turkish Poetry*.) "We must see whether it be not practicable to exhibit the Ottoman Muse in apparel somewhat more attractive than that which decorates her here!" The Schlegels, Herder, Rückert, and others whom Mangan read, were full of Oriental influences, direct or indirect. He was a voracious student of De Sacy and Galland, of *Fundgruben des Orients*, and of d'Herbelot's *Oriental Catalogue*. During the earlier half of the century, the eyes of scholars were turned often to the East. By 1830 there was enough of it reflected in German letters, enough even in

the spurious bulbuls of *Lalla Rookh*, to supply a man of nimble apprehension like Mangan,

— “sagacious of his quarry from afar,”

with his personal visions. He expressly states somewhere that he dislikes the Orientals for their mysticism. Meanwhile, on a fine mystical principle, he approximates them, he has sympathies with them. He has all the sense of awe and horror, the joy in action and the memory of action, the bright fatalism, of a Mussulman. Whenever he puts on a turban, natural to him as was the himation to Keats, mischief is afoot. He did not wear it “for the grandeur of the thing,” like a greater poet, poor Collins, who, in his last days, confessed to the Wartons his suspicion that his *Oriental Eclogues* were, rather, his Irish Eclogues. “Translation’s so feasible!” Mangan exclaims in a jolly passage wherein he blames other bards who do not dedicate themselves, for the hungry public’s sake, to that excellent diversion. Lamb himself had no more fun out of Ritson and John Scott the Quaker, than Mangan has out of his poems by Selber, with notes by Dr. Berri Abel Hummer. The nomenclature of some of his puppets is quite too daring. Berri Abel, Ben Daood, and Bham-Booz-eel are bad enough, but Baugtrauter is notorious.

He declared continually that his "translations" were not rigidly exact, or he refused altogether to gratify the curiosity of his audience. "It is the course that liberal feeling dictates," he says, with a strict humor worthy of Newman, "to let them suppose what they like." And all the time he is enriching them and cheating himself, adorning the annals of reversed forgery, and cutting off from the circulation of his mother-tongue some of its most original accents. He produced several Ottoman "proverbs," in the September of 1837, which are the everyday saws of our western civilization served with spice. Reduced to their lowest terms, these mystical mouthings grin at one like a bottled imp. "Speech is Silver, but Silence is Golden," they say; "Enough is as good as a Feast"; "The Pot calls the Kettle Black"; "A Bird in the Hand is Worth Two in the Bush"! Mangan took tremendous delight in throwing dust in devoted eyes. It is within reason that in his roaring stanzas dedicated *To the Ingleeze Khafir, Djaun Bool Djenkinzun*, the dear and dunderheaded gentleman addressed might miss the point altogether. It would not be so conceivable that he hoodwinked also the Trinity Fellows at his elbow, were it not for two considerations. In the first place, nobody was especially well ac-

quainted with him; he was intangible. As none could affirm with authority whether he had but one coat in his wardrobe, or where and how he kept his distressing relatives; so none could track his elusive mental habits, and say, "This knowledge, and not that, has he acquired." Again, specialists do not grow on every bush, even in Trinity. The names of authors whom he cited, Mehisi, Kemal-Oomi, Baba Khodjee, Selim-il-Anagh, Mustafa Reezah, Burhan-ed-Deen, Mohammed Ben Osman, Ben Ali Nakkash (may their tribe decrease!) were not illuminating; neither were the mottoes in good Arabic, but somewhat irrelevant to their purpose, with which he prefaced his apocrypha. He attributes one strain to a sixteenth-century Zirbayeh, another to Lameejah, a third to a phonetic nightingale called Waheedi. He abstracts from a manuscript in possession of "the queen of Transoxiana" one of the loveliest of his songs, and fathers it upon Al Makeenah, a fighting bard of his fancy. Once he was brought to task for concealing himself under the cloak of Hafiz, whereupon he replied that any critic could discern that the verses were only Hafiz! His custom was to leave Hafiz alone, with Saadi and Omar, these being persons somewhat familiar to the general. The poets he courts are more preciously private to

himself than ever Cyril Tourneur was, years ago, to the elect. Some of their names stand out memorably bright, and only just beneath those of the splendid phantom Mirza Schaffy, and the Haji-Abdu el-Yezdi, who had some reality so long as Sir Richard Burton lived. The attention of a competent Orientalist may never have been drawn to specifications which would at once throw the unwary off the trail; but it is likely that they passed with modest minor scholars who would have suspected anybody of this roguery sooner than innocent bespectacled Mangan.

It is as a son of the Prophet that he claims his full applause. *Al Hassan* is more than equalled by *The Wail and Warning of the Three Kbalendeers* (which Thackeray would have relished had he known it), by *The Time of the Barmecides*, the vehement *Howling Song of Al Mobara*, and others, drawn, like these, from the impossible Persian, and many of which are only to be found scattered up and down the capital-lettered yellow pages of extinct provincial journals.

It is more than likely that his taste for Eastern poetry, gratified under such ironic conditions, was in Mangan a reaction from the little he knew of the bardic antiquities of his own Ireland; for he appears to have been much at-

tracted to Vallencey's most tenable theory that the Milesians were the lost tribe of Israel. The all-but-identity of the typical Turkish wail : —

“ Wulla-hu, wulwulla-hu ! ”

with the more melodious Gaelic

“ Ullu, ullalu ! ”

fascinated him ; and he used both rather too freely. Working on Shane O'Golain's *Lament* in 1848 he took fire, at three o'clock of a Friday morning, and resolved to give as good as he got. “ I will shortly send you,” he writes to his patron, “ a funeral wail from the Turkish, on the decease of one of the Sultans. The spirit of the composition closely resembles what we meet with in similar Irish poems.” (Marry come up ! so it must, slyest of Mangans.) This was probably the *Elegy for Sulieman the Magnificent*, a fairly unimpressive production. With his genius for analogies, the “ translator ” found ancient Irish, at second-hand, as Oriental as need be. Adjurations, apostrophes, superlatives, monotones, reiterations, vague but bold colors, belonged, as outstanding features, to both languages ; and to all these characteristics his own habits of speech and thought were congenial.

What Matthew Arnold said of the Celtic



literature in general, may apply to Mangan's share in it. "It is not great poetical work; but it is poetry, with the air of greatness investing it." His Eastern fictions, like most of his Western ones, deal usually with a mood of reminiscence and regret, and they have the arch and poignant pathos in which English song is not rich. The mournful echo of days gone by, the light tingeing a present cloud from the absent sun, are everywhere in Mangan's world. He looks back forever, not with moping, but with a certain shrewd sense of triumph and heartiness. He embraces the tragical to-day, like Pascal's crushed and thinking reed of mankind, *parce qu'il sait qu'il meurt, et l'avantage que l'univers a sur lui: l'univers n'en sait rien*. He delivers a lament as if it were a cheer; in his strange temperament they blend in one. It is clear to posterity that this looking back on rosy hours is a sham, a poet's fantasy. What idyllic yesterday cradled and reared so ill-adventured a soul? Out of his imagination his "rich Bagdad" never existed; though it be cherished there as only the solitary and disregarded intelligence can cherish its ideal, he is lord of it yet, and can bid it vanish, at one imperious gesture of relinquishment. Down tumbles Bagdad! The crash thereof is in the public ears; and who will refuse to be-

lieve that there was a Clarence Mangan who knew something of the blessed Orient, something, too, of felicity, even though it passed?

## XI

With his provoking banter, in April of 1840, he calls attention, in a magazine, to *The Time of the Barmecides*, a composition of his own, which he had given to the same pages just a year before, and which he had bettered infinitely, meanwhile, by a few discreet touches. Starting off with a motto (obviously of his own manufacture), that

“There runs thro’ all the dells of Time  
No stream like Youth again,”

he proceeds to explain the second appearance of his favored lyric. “It was published some months back, but in such suspicious company that it probably remained unread, except by the very few persons who have always believed us too honorable to attempt imposing on or mystifying the public. We now, therefore, take the liberty of reintroducing the poem to general notice, embellished with improvements, merely premising that if any lady or gentleman wishes to have a copy of the original (or,



indeed, of any originals of our oversettings), we are quite ready to come forward and treat: terms cash, except to young ladies." With talk of such vain and transparent nonsense, Mangan attempts to parry his rightful praise. He would have us think that to his laborious searching and transcribing, "with the help," as he says, of "punch and patience," we are indebted for the existence of his finest work. But the punch is direct from Castaly's well, and the patience covers the rapturous drudgery known to all true art. What held him back from acknowledging his own homespun glories was a trait both of shyness and of perversity. He must have been conscious that his rhythms were nothing short of innovations. Nearly everything which bears his name has a voluptuous dance-measure which no one had written before: a beauty so novel and compelling, that it is remarkable it has lacked recognition. With characteristic shrinking, Mangan sealed his charter of merit to supposititious ancients and aliens. Perspicacious readers are besought to consider it less likely that in one poet was a voice of such individuality that it breaks forth through a hundred disguises, than that bards resident through the ages in the four zones, Jew and Gentile,

"Bold Plutarch, Neptune, and Nicodemus,"

are the co-heirs of the self-same astonishing style. Wits were at work on him, even as on a rebus, long before he died. Some anonymous writer, aware of a new sound when he heard it, addressed to him an apostrophe not idle, since it shows that the sagacious race of mousers abides always and everywhere, and that, according to a metaphysical truism made famous by President Lincoln's homely adaptation of it, no one person can deceive all:—

“Various and curious are thy strains, O Clarence  
Mangan,  
Rhyming and chiming in a very odd way;  
Rhyming and chiming! and the like of them no  
man can  
Easily find in a long summer's day.”

Mangan's shibboleth is the refrain. The refrain is characteristic, in some shape or other, of all old poetry. It belongs to Judea and Greece, no less than to northern France, to the England of the Percy Reliques, and the Persianized Germany of Mangan's study. After a long lapse, it had its first full modern use in *The Ancient Mariner*, and in the peculiar cadence of all Coleridge's stops and keys. The fact that at divers periods, fashions of thoughts and speech infect the air, is a vindication of many laurelled heads; for it is a theory which pinches

nobody. Almost on the same morning, within twenty years of Coleridge's retirement to Highgate, Mrs. Browning, Mangan, and Edgar Allan Poe were involuntarily conspiring to fix and perpetuate a poetic accident, destined to its subtlest and not wholly unforeseen collateral development in Rossetti. Among these, Mrs. Browning invented and foreshadowed much, but with a light hand. Poe's ringing of the word-changes is, on the other hand, so bold, that any successor who approximates his manner is sure now of smiling detection and discouragement. Whatever recalls

“Come, let the burial rite be read,  
The funeral song be sung!  
An anthem for the queenliest dead  
That ever died so young;  
A dirge for her, the doubly dead,  
In that she died so young,”

is all very fine, we say, but it will not do; the thing was done to perfection once: we must let Poe reign in his own kingdom. Let us have a care lest we are letting Poe reign in Mangan's kingdom. The unmistakable mark of Poe's maturer poetry, the employment of sonorous successive lines which cunningly fall short of exact duplication, belong also to Mangan, in the same degree. There is this passage

of his, for instance, in the reverie of the way-farer beside the river Mourne, who longs for everlasting rest delayed, and who hears, in answer, a prophetic voice from the martyred tree in the saw-mill : —

“ ‘For this grieve not ; thou knowest what thanks  
The weary-souled and the meek owe  
To Death !’ I awoke, and heard four planks  
Fall down with a saddening echo,  
I heard four planks  
Fall down with a hollow echo ! ”

And one verse out of the powerful many which bear the burden of “ Karaman ! ” will serve to illustrate the point yet more clearly : —

“ I was mild as milk till then,  
I was soft as silk till then ;  
Now my breast is like a den,  
Karaman !  
Foul with blood and bones of men,  
Karaman !  
With blood and bones of slaughtered men,  
Karaman, O Karaman ! ”

Were it not for the imperfect rhyme in the *Saw-Mill* stanza, any critic would attribute all the lines cited to Poe, both for manner, and for perfect mastery of ghastly detail.

It happens that the Muse over in Dublin has the advantage of priority. Poe's maiden

work has not the lovely tautology which has since been associated with his name. Judging by the pains which he took to dissect the rainbow of his genius in his *Philosophy of Composition*, he would have us assured that *The Raven* was his earliest experiment in the values of that saying-over or singing-over which, like a looped ribbon, flutters about the close of so many of his posthumous verses. Moreover, *The Raven* was "only that and nothing more." Poe's own thrilling tale of *Ligeia*, dating from 1838, provided every one of the "properties" essential to the effect of *The Raven*, and even the same psychological situation. It is not inconceivable that the prose was converted into poetry, exclusively for the purpose of trying a rash harmonic experiment on an approved instrument. At any rate, the element in the great lyric which was not already in *Ligeia*, is precisely this haunting iteration of sweet sounds. *The Raven* was first published anonymously in the January of 1845. It spread like wildfire in America, and reached London the next year. In a letter to Poe, dated April, 1846, Miss Elizabeth Barrett Barrett says: "Your *Raven* has produced a sensation, a 'fit of horror,' here in England. Some of my friends are taken by the fear of it, and some by the music." The English parodies of it, which would certify

that it was popular and familiar, began in 1853. *Ulalume* appeared in *Colton's Review*, in 1847; and it may be considered as the perfect blossom of Poe's acquired tendencies. *Lenore*, first intoned as *A Pæan* (1831), came out in Mr. James Russell Lowell's journal, *The Pioneer*, in 1843. It is instructive to observe that it has not, there, a single touch of the repetitions which now give it such memorable glamour; the repetitions were superadded later and on second thought. Now Mangan, from 1839 and 1840 on, bestowed on almost everything he wrote the curious involved diction in question. Two poems of his in particular, which have mere extrinsic value, may therefore yield up their opening stanzas as arch-specimens. *The Winniger Winehouse*, we are told, is "slightly improved from Hoffmann of Fallersleben." *The Kiosk of Moostanzar-Billah* has no history.

"Hurrah for the Winniger Winehouse,  
The sanded Winniger Winehouse!  
Eighteen of us meet in a circle, and treat  
Each other all day at the Winehouse.  
As thinking but doubles men's troubles,  
'Tis shirked in the emerald parlor;  
Tho' banks be broken and war lour,  
We've eyes alone for such bubbles

As wink on our cups in the Winehouse,  
Our golden cups in the Winehouse,  
(As poets would feign !) but 'tis glasses we drain  
In the sanded Winniger Winehouse ! ”

---

“ The pall of the sunset fell  
Vermilioneing earth and water ;  
The bulbul's melody broke from the dell,  
A song to the rose, the summer's daughter !  
The lulling music of Tigris' flow  
Was blended with echoes from many a mosque  
As the muezzin chanted the *Allah-el-illah* :  
Yet my heart in that hour was low,  
For I stood in a ruined Kiosk :  
O my heart in that hour was low  
For I stood in the ruined Kiosk  
Of the Caliph Moostanzar-Billah ;  
I mused alone in the ruined Kiosk  
Of the mighty Moostanzar-Billah.”

The same emphatic notes occur in *The Three Talismans*, *The Wayfaring Tree*, *The Saw-Mill*, and *The Karamanian Exile* ; in *The Last Words of Al Hassan*, and in the very different and very beautiful *Time of the Barmecides* ; in *The Wail and Warning of the Three Kbalendeers*, and in *My Dark Rosaleen* ; and something not far from them in *Night is Nearing*, *Twenty Golden Years ago*, *The Time ere the Roses were Blowing*,



and *The Howling Song*. Indeed, it is difficult to quote from him at all and not detect the accent associated forever with Poe. Under cover of his spurious Orientalism, Mangan allowed himself much autobiographical utterance; and he found it convenient, as an Oriental middleman, to introduce, and to fully develop, without suspicion from outsiders, his ornate original *da capo*. Indeed, one sometimes feels quite certain that he was a practising Mussulman only for the sake of it. In *The Dervish and the Vizier*, Mangan is his own superexcellent parodist: here he breaks into a ridiculous exaggeration of the refrain, in a comic narrative of great gusto. Having once mastered his invention, Mangan, in the end, came near being mastered by it. He imported a sort of stammering into many of his renderings from foreign languages, to the conceivable amazement of dead authors; and the catch-word of a stanza was often multiplied until it attained the numerical importance of Mozart's triumphant *Amens*. No one will deny that the *Schwertlied* itself gains by this vandalism. Poe, in this respect, is merely Mangesque. In *The Dublin University Magazine*, during the years when Poe was attaining his zenith of success, figure successive specimens of the unchanged art of the man who had the start of him by at least



five years; for *The Barmecides* was in print in 1839, and *The Karamanian Exile*, a finished model of its kind, was contemporary with the as yet cisatlantic *Raven*, and the predecessor of *Ulalume*, *Lenore*, *Eulalie*, *For Annie*, and the rest. Coleridge's is too great a name by which to measure, and Mrs. Browning is an influence apart, when one comes to scrutinize the neck-and-neck achievements of Mangan and Poe.

Mr. Joseph Skipsey openly implies that Poe fell across Mangan's experimental measures during his own editorial and journalistic career. The proposition might have more weight, coming from a more cautious pen; yet it is a practicable guess, did one care to entertain it. The American's thrift and hardihood, his known accomplishment of buccaneering, beneficent as it chanced to be in the application, helped him to adopt and bring into notice any reform perishing in obscure hands. Thus he supplemented the octosyllabic cadences of *Lady Geraldine's Courtship* in

"The silken, sad, uncertain rustling of each purple curtain,"

with a patrician aggressiveness never to be confounded with common theft. On the other side, no arraignment of this sort can be brought against poor chivalrous Mangan which would

not be a chronological absurdity. Coleridge the forerunner might have pushed his verbal practice farther; but he lacked the sensationalism which is a noble ingredient if used sparingly and in season, and of which Mangan and Poe, beyond all doubt, were possessed. Now, it is not to be forgotten that one of these two lived and died, as it were, in a hole; that at no time was he in the current of events, or so placed, withdrawn in the violet shadow of the Wicklow Hills, that he could and would scan even the near English horizon. It was the business of the other to sit in a watch-tower,

“Where Helicon breaks down  
In cliff to the sea.”

Poe, if it may be said respectfully, was what the Gypsies call a *jinney-mengro*: one-who-knows-what-is-up-and-cannot-be-gulled. Under circumstances comparatively kind, from an official chair, and with the bravery which is half the battle, he bequeathed to the soil of English literature a hitherto exotic beauty. It is unnecessary to ask whether he learned his lyric latitude of phrase from *The Dublin University Magazine*. But Clarence Mangan, shrinking like the Thane before the supernatural “All hail hereafter!” is the true founder, neverthe-

less, of the most picturesque feature in modern verse.

While Poe links himself for good with his immediate predecessors in *The Haunted Palace*, *The City by the Sea*, and the opening of *Al Aaraaf*, and so falls gracefully into his dynastic place, Mangan has wayward secondary leanings, sometimes to the whimsical, affectionate temper of Béranger, sometimes to the bare strength of the Elizabethans themselves, as in his lines where Fate

“Tolls the disastrous bell of all our years,”

a line as unlike as possible to

“Helen, thy beauty is to me  
Like those Nicean barks of yore.”

He is addicted to compound words; and in such mongrel usages as “youthhood,” “gloom-somely,” and “aptliest,” he makes straight for the pitfalls dug for the radiant intelligence of Mrs. Browning. Poe is too “dainty, airy, amber-bright,” for sophomoric blunders, for wretched puns, for breathless haste, for dactyls maimed and scarred in the wars. He never makes Mangan’s lunges; his every cæsural pause is fixed by conclave of the Muses. And there is over all his entrancing work an air of

incomparable self-attentiveness, a touch of satisfied completion, as of a *coquette bien chaussée, bien gantée*. The other's charm is less urban :

“A winning wave, deserving note,  
In the tempestuous petticoat.”

The two Celts had much, very much, in common ; Poe's Attic taste, sprung from his fortunate training, is responsible for most of the difference. To affirm of him, as has often been done, that he worshipped beauty with his whole soul ; that he loved the occult sciences, the phrenologists, and the old mystics ; that his existence was but an affecting struggle with the adversaries of darkness ; even that he was of a frail physique, his forehead high and pale, the lower part of his face sensitive and dejected ; — this is to describe Mangan equally well. They had kindred dreams ; they were haunted by the same loathing of the “dishonor of the grave” ; they died, under almost identical circumstances of pain and mystery, in the same year. Their respective sense of humor was unevenly apportioned. In point of achievement, too, or of the forces which make achievement possible, they are hardly to be compared. Poe was ever the artist ; his imagination was not only sumptuous, but steadfast ; his utterances were fewer, and had finality. In the moral contrast, it is

the Irish poet who gains. Poe, with his manifold gifts (if we may pervert the terms of Lamb's theological thesis *not* "defended or oppugned, or both, at Leipsic or Göttingen") was "of the highest order of the seraphim illuminati who sneer." He nursed grudges and hungered for homage; he was seldom so happy as in a thriving quarrel. Mangan was a pattern of sweet gratitude and deference, and left his art to prosper or perish, as Heaven should please.

In 1803, the year of Mangan's birth, Mrs. Hemans printed her first verses, and Moore, already a popular young minstrel, was commissioned to be Admiralty Registrar at Bermuda. The *Lyrical Ballads* had sunk, softly as a snowflake, into the earth one twelvemonth before. Mangan's early youth was the flowering-time of Keats, Shelley, and Byron; and he was writing for penny journals while the new minor notes, Hood's, Praed's, Moore's, were filling the air. He died, not companionless, with Emily Brontë, Hartley Coleridge, and Thomas Lovell Beddoes, in 1849: three spirits of lavish promise, defrauded and unfulfilled like his own, yet happier than he, inasmuch as they have had since many liegemen and rememberers. Let him come forward at last in a quieter hour, with his own whimsical misgiving man-

ner, or with questions pathetically irrelevant, as one whom the fairies had led astray : —

“O sayest thou the soul shall climb  
The magic mount she trod of old,  
Ere childhood’s time?”

He has been, for a half-century, wandering on the dark marge of Lethe. It will not do, as yet, to startle him with gross applause. Otherwise, his gratified editor would like to repeat, introducing Clarence Mangan, the gallant words with which Schumann once began a review of the young Chopin : “Hats off, gentlemen : a Genius !”

# My Dark Rosaleen

And Other Translations from the Gaelic





## MY DARK ROSALEEN<sup>1</sup> (1)

(TRADITIONAL)

O my Dark Rosaleen,  
Do not sigh, do not weep !  
The priests are on the ocean green,  
They march along the deep.  
There's wine from the royal Pope  
Upon the ocean green ;  
And Spanish ale shall give you hope,  
My Dark Rosaleen !  
My own Rosaleen !  
Shall glad your heart, shall give you hope,  
Shall give you health, and help, and hope,  
My Dark Rosaleen !

Over hills and thro' dales,  
Have I roamed for your sake ;  
All yesterday I sailed with sails  
On river and on lake.  
The Erne at its highest flood  
I dashed across unseen,

<sup>1</sup> This impassioned song, entitled, in the original, *Roisin Dubb*, or The Black-Haired Little Rose, was written in the reign of Elizabeth by one of the poets of the celebrated Tyrconnellian chieftain, Hugh the Red O'Donnell. It purports to be an allegorical address from Hugh to Ireland on the subject of his love and struggles for her, and his resolve to raise her again to the glorious position she held as a nation, before the irruption of the Saxon and Norman spoilers.

[All the notes at the bottom of the page in this book are Mangan's own. Figures in parentheses refer to the Editor's notes at the end of the book.]

For there was lightning in my blood,  
My Dark Rosaleen!  
My own Rosaleen!  
O there was lightning in my blood,  
Red lightning lightened thro' my blood,  
My Dark Rosaleen!

All day long, in unrest,  
To and fro, do I move.  
The very soul within my breast  
Is wasted for you, love!  
The heart in my bosom faints  
To think of you, my queen,  
My life of life, my saint of saints,  
My Dark Rosaleen!  
My own Rosaleen!  
To hear your sweet and sad complaints,  
My life, my love, my saint of saints,  
My Dark Rosaleen!

Woe and pain, pain and woe,  
Are my lot, night and noon,  
To see your bright face clouded so,  
Like to the mournful moon.  
But yet will I rear your throne  
Again in golden sheen;  
'Tis you shall reign, shall reign alone,  
My Dark Rosaleen!  
My own Rosaleen!  
'Tis you shall have the golden throne,  
'Tis you shall reign, and reign alone,  
My Dark Rosaleen!

Over dew, over sand,  
Will I fly for your weal :  
Your holy delicate white hands  
Shall girdle me with steel.  
At home in your emerald bowers,  
From morning's dawn till e'en,  
You'll pray for me, my flower of flowers,  
My Dark Rosaleen !  
My fond Rosaleen !  
You'll think of me thro' daylight hours,  
My virgin flower, my flower of flowers,  
My Dark Rosaleen !

I could scale the blue air,  
I could plough the high hills,  
O I could kneel all night in prayer,  
To heal your many ills !  
And one beamy smile from you  
Would float like light between  
My toils and me, my own, my true,  
My Dark Rosaleen !  
My fond Rosaleen !  
Would give me life and soul anew,  
A second life, a soul anew,  
My Dark Rosaleen !

O the Erne shall run red  
With redundance of blood,  
The earth shall rock beneath our tread,  
And flames wrap hill and wood,  
And gun-peal and slogan-cry  
Wake many a glen serene,

Ere you shall fade, ere you shall die,  
My Dark Rosaleen !  
My own Rosaleen !  
The Judgment Hour must first be nigh,  
Ere you can fade, ere you can die,  
My Dark Rosaleen !

### PRINCE ALDFRID'S ITINERARY THROUGH IRELAND<sup>1</sup>

I found in Innisfail the fair,  
In Ireland, while in exile there,  
Women of worth, both grave and gay men,  
Many clerics and many laymen.

I travelled its fruitful provinces round,  
And in every one of the five I found,  
Alike in church and in palace hall,  
Abundant apparel, and food for all.

Gold and silver I found in money ;  
Plenty of wheat and plenty of honey ;  
I found God's people rich in pity,  
Found many a feast, and many a city.

I also found in Armagh the splendid,  
Meekness, wisdom, and prudence blended,

<sup>1</sup> Amongst the Anglo-Saxon students resorting to Ireland was Prince Aldfrid, afterwards King of the Northumbrian Saxons. His having been educated there about the year 684 is corroborated by Venerable Bede in his *Life of S. Cuthbert*. The original poem of which this is a translation, attributed to Aldfrid, is still extant in the Irish language.

Fasting, as Christ hath recommended,  
And noble councillors untranscended.

I found in each great church moreo'er,  
Whether on island or on shore,  
Piety, learning, fond affection,  
Holy welcome and kind protection.

I found the good lay monks and brothers  
Ever beseeching help for others,  
And, in their keeping, the Holy Word  
Pure as it came from Jesus the Lord.

I found in Munster unfettered of any,  
Kings, and queens, and poets a many,  
Poets well-skilled in music and measure;  
Prosperous doings, mirth and pleasure.

I found in Connaught the just, redundancy  
Of riches, milk in lavish abundance;  
Hospitality, vigor, fame,  
In Cruachan's<sup>1</sup> land of heroic name.

I found in the country of Connall<sup>2</sup> the glorious,  
Bravest heroes ever victorious;  
Fair-complexioned men and warlike,  
Ireland's lights, the high, the starlike!

I found in Ulster from hill to glen,  
Hardy warriors, resolute men;

<sup>1</sup> Cruachan, or Croghan, was the name of the royal palace of Connaught.

<sup>2</sup> Tyrconnell, the present Donegal.

Beauty that bloomed when youth was gone,  
And strength transmitted from sire to son.

I found in the noble district of Boyle,  
(*MS. here illegible.*)

Brehons, Erenachs,<sup>1</sup> weapons bright,  
And horsemen bold and sudden in fight.

I found in Leinster the smooth and sleek,  
From Dublin to Slewmary's <sup>2</sup> peak,  
Flourishing pastures, valor, health,  
Long-living worthies, commerce, wealth.

I found, besides, from Ara to Glea,  
In the broad rich country of Ossorie,  
Sweet fruits, good laws for all and each,  
Great chess-players, men of truthful speech.

I found in Meath's fair principality  
Virtue, vigor, and hospitality;  
Candor, joyfulness, bravery, purity,  
Ireland's bulwark and security.

I found strict morals in age and youth,  
I found historians recording truth;  
The things I sing of in verse unsmooth,  
I found them all. I have written sooth.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Brehon, a law judge; Erenach, a ruler, an archdeacon.

<sup>2</sup> Slewmary, a mountain in the Queen's County, near the river Barrow.

<sup>3</sup> "Bede assures us that the Irish were a harmless and friendly people. To them many of the Angles had been accustomed to resort in search of knowledge, and on all occasions had been received and supported gratuitously. Aldfrid lived in spontaneous exile among the Scots (Irish) through his desire of knowledge, and was called to the throne of Northumbria after the decease of his brother Egfrid in 685." — *Lingard's England*, vol. i. chap. 3.



KINKORA<sup>1</sup>

(MAC-LIAG)

O where, Kinkora! is Brian the Great,  
And where is the beauty that once was thine?  
O where are the princes and nobles that sate  
At the feast in thy halls, and drank the red wine?  
Where, O Kinkora?

O where, Kinkora! are thy valorous lords?  
O whither, thou hospitable! are they gone?  
O where are the Dalcassians of the golden swords?<sup>2</sup>  
And where are the warriors Brian led on?  
Where, O Kinkora?

And where is Morrough, the descendant of kings,  
The defeater of a hundred, the daringly brave,  
Who set but slight store by jewels and rings,  
Who swam down the torrent and laughed at its wave?  
Where, O Kinkora?

And where is Donogh, King Brian's worthy son?  
And where is Conaing, the beautiful chief?

<sup>1</sup> This poem is ascribed to Mac-Liag, the secretary of Brian Boruimha, who fell at the battle of Clontarf, in 1014; and the subject of it is a lamentation for the fallen condition of Kinkora, the palace of that monarch, consequent on his death. The decease of Mac-Liag is recorded in the "*Annals of the Four Masters*," as having taken place in 1015. A great number of his poems are still in existence, but none of them has obtained a popularity so widely extended as his *Lament*. The palace of Kinkora, which was situated on the banks of the Shannon, near Killaloe, is now a heap of ruins.

<sup>2</sup> *Colg n-or*, or the swords of Gold, i.e. of the *Gold-bilted* Swords.

And Kian and Corc? Alas! they are gone:  
They have left me this night alone with my grief!  
Left me, Kinkora!

And where are the chiefs with whom Brian went forth?  
The sons never-vanquished of Evin the brave,  
The great King of Osnacht, renowned for his worth,  
And the hosts of Baskinn from the western wave?  
Where, O Kinkora?

O where is Duvlann of the swift-footed steeds?  
And where is Kian who was son of Molloy?  
And where is King Lonergan, the fame of whose deeds  
In the red battle-field no time can destroy?  
Where, O Kinkora?

And where is that youth of majestic height,  
The faith-keeping Prince of the Scots? Even he,  
As wide as his fame was, as great as was his might,  
Was tributary, Kinkora, to thee!  
Thee, O Kinkora!

They are gone, those heroes of royal birth  
Who plundered no churches, and broke no trust;  
'Tis weary for me to be living on earth  
When they, O Kinkora, lie low in the dust.  
Low, O Kinkora!

O never again will princes appear,  
To rival the Dalcassians<sup>1</sup> of the cleaving swords;

<sup>1</sup> The Dalcassians were Brian's body-guard.

I can never dream of meeting afar or anear,  
In the east or the west, such heroes and lords!  
Never, Kinkora!

O dear are the images my memory calls up  
Of Brian Boru! how he never would miss  
To give me at the banquet, the first bright cup.  
Ah! why did he heap on me honor like this?  
Why, O Kinkora?

I am Mac-Liag, and my home is on the lake:  
Thither often, to that palace whose beauty is fled,  
Came Brian to ask me, and I went for his sake. —  
O my grief! that I should live, and Brian be dead!  
Dead, O Kinkora!

## ST. PATRICK'S HYMN BEFORE TARA<sup>1</sup>

At Tara to-day, in this awful hour,  
I call on the Holy Trinity!  
Glory to Him who reigneth in power,  
The God of the elements, Father, and Son,  
And Paraclete Spirit, which Three are the One,  
The ever-existing Divinity!

<sup>1</sup> The original Irish of this hymn was published by Dr. Petrie, in vol. xviii., "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy." It is in the *Bearla Feine*, the most ancient dialect of the Irish, the same in which the Brehon laws were written. It was printed from the *Liber Hymnorum*, preserved in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, a manuscript, which, as Dr. Petrie proves by the authority of Usher and others, must be nearly twelve hundred and fifty years old.

At Tara to-day I call on the Lord,  
On Christ, the Omnipotent Word,  
Who came to redeem from death and sin  
Our fallen race ;  
And I put and I place  
The virtue that lieth and liveth in  
His Incarnation lowly,  
His Baptism pure and holy,  
His Life of toil, and tears, and affliction,  
His dolorous Death, his Crucifixion,  
His Burial, sacred and sad and lone,  
His Resurrection to life again,  
His glorious Ascension to Heaven's high throne,  
And, lastly, his future dread  
And terrible Coming to judge all men,  
Both the living and dead ; —

At Tara to-day I put and I place  
The virtue that dwells in the Seraphim's love,  
And the virtue and grace  
That are in the obedience  
And unshaken allegiance  
Of all the Archangels and Angels above,  
And in the hope of the Resurrection  
To everlasting reward and election,  
And in the prayers of the Fathers of old,  
And in the truths the Prophets foretold,  
And in the Apostles' manifold preachings,  
And in the Confessors' faith and teachings,  
And in the purity ever dwelling  
Within the immaculate Virgin's breast,

And in the actions bright and excelling  
Of all good men, the just and the blest ; —

At Tara to-day, in this fateful hour,  
I place all Heaven with its power,  
And the sun with its brightness,  
And the snow with its whiteness,  
And fire with all the strength it hath,  
And lightning with its rapid wrath,  
And the winds with their swiftness along their path,  
And the sea with its deepness,  
And the rocks with their steepness,  
And the earth with its starkness<sup>1</sup> ; —  
All these I place,  
By God's almighty help and grace,  
Between myself and the Powers of Darkness !

At Tara to-day  
May God be my stay !  
May the strength of God now nerve me !  
May the power of God preserve me !  
May God the Almighty be near me !  
May God the Almighty espy me !  
May God the Almighty hear me !  
May God give me eloquent speech !  
May the arm of God protect me !  
May the wisdom of God direct me !  
May God give me power to teach and to preach !  
May the shield of God defend me !

<sup>1</sup> Properly, "strength," "firmness," from the Anglo-Saxon *stark*,  
"strong, stiff."

May the host of God attend me,  
And ward me,  
And guard me  
Against the wiles of demons and devils,  
Against the temptations of vices and evils,  
Against the bad passions and wrathful will  
Of the reckless mind and the wicked heart ;  
Against every man who designs me ill,  
Whether leagued with others or plotting apart !

In this hour of hours,  
I place all those powers  
Between myself and every foe  
Who threatens my body and soul  
With danger or dole,  
To protect me against the evils that flow  
From lying soothsayers' incantations,  
From the gloomy laws of the Gentile nations,  
From heresy's hateful innovations,  
From idolatry's rites and invocations ;  
Be those my defenders,  
My guards against every ban,  
And spells of smiths, and Druids, and women ;  
In fine, against every knowledge that renders  
The light Heaven sends us dim in  
The spirit and soul of man !

May Christ, I pray,  
Protect me to-day  
Against poison and fire,  
Against drowning and wounding,

That so, in His grace abounding,  
I may earn the preacher's hire !

Christ, as a light,  
Illumine and guide me !  
Christ as a shield, o'ershadow and cover me !  
Christ be under me ! Christ be over me !  
Christ be beside me  
On left hand and right !  
Christ be before me, behind me, about me !  
Christ this day be within and without me !

Christ, the lowly and meek,  
Christ, the All-Powerful, be  
In the heart of each to whom I speak,  
In the mouth of each who speaks to me !  
In all who draw near me,  
Or see me or hear me !

At Tara to-day, in this awful hour,  
I call on the Holy Trinity !  
Glory to Him who reigneth in power,  
The God of the Elements, Father, and Son,  
And Paraclete Spirit, which Three are the One,  
The ever-existing Divinity !

Salvation dwells with the Lord,  
With Christ, the Omnipotent Word :  
From generation to generation  
Grant us, O Lord, thy grace and salvation !

## O'DALY'S KEEN FOR O'NEILL (2)

O mourn, Erin, mourn !  
He is lost, he is dead,  
By whom thy proudest flag was borne,  
Thy bravest heroes led :  
The night-winds are uttering  
Their orisons of woe,  
The raven flaps his darkling wing  
O'er the grave of Owen Roe,  
Of him who should have been thy King,  
The noble Owen Roe.

Alas, hapless land,  
It is ever thus with thee ;  
The eternal destinies withstand  
Thy struggle to be free.  
One after one thy champions fall,  
Thy valiant men lie low,  
And now sleeps under shroud and pall  
The gallant Owen Roe,  
The worthiest warrior of them all,  
The princely Owen Roe !

Where was sword, where was soul  
Like to his below the skies ?  
Ah, many a century must roll  
Ere such a chief shall rise !  
I saw him in the battle's shock :  
Tremendous was his blow :  
As smites the sledge the anvil block,  
His blade smote the foe.



He was a tower ; a human rock  
Was mighty Owen Roe.

Woe to us ! Guilt and wrong  
Triumph, while, to our grief,  
We raise the *keen*, the funeral song  
Above our fallen chief.  
The proud usurper sways with power,  
He rules in state and show,  
While we lament our fallen tower,  
Our leader, Owen Roe ;  
While we, like slaves, bow down and cower,  
And weep for Owen Roe.

But the high will of Heaven  
Be fulfilled evermore !  
What tho' it leaveth us bereaven  
And stricken to the core,  
Amid our groans, amid our tears,  
We still feel and know  
That we shall meet in after years  
The sainted Owen Roe :  
In after years, in brighter spheres,  
Our glorious Owen Roe !

## THE FAIR HILLS OF EIRÉ, O

(DONOGH MÁC CON-MARA) (3)

Take a blessing from my heart to the land of my  
birth,  
And the fair hills of Eiré, O !

And to all that yet survive of Eibhear's tribe on earth,  
On the fair hills of Eiré, O !  
In that land so delightful the wild thrush's lay,  
Seems to pour a lament forth for Eiré's decay.  
Alas, alas, why pine I a thousand miles away  
From the fair hills of Eiré, O !

The soil is rich and soft, the air is mild and bland,  
Of the fair hills of Eiré, O !  
Her barest rock is greener to me than this rude land ;  
O the fair hills of Eiré, O !  
Her woods are tall and straight, grove rising over  
grove ;  
Trees flourish in her glens below and on her heights  
above ;  
Ah, in heart and in soul I shall ever, ever love  
The fair hills of Eiré, O !

A noble tribe, moreover, are the now hapless Gael,  
On the fair hills of Eiré, O !  
A tribe in battle's hour unused to shrink or fail  
On the fair hills of Eiré, O !  
For this is my lament in bitterness outpoured  
To see them slain or scattered by the Saxon sword :  
O woe of woes to see a foreign spoiler horde  
On the fair hills of Eiré, O !

Broad and tall rise the *cruachs* in the golden morning  
 glow  
 On the fair hills of Eiré, O !  
 O'er her smooth grass for ever sweet cream and honey  
 flow  
 On the fair hills of Eiré, O !

Oh, I long, I am pining, again to behold  
The land that belongs to the brave Gael of old.  
Far dearer to my heart than a gift of gems or gold  
Are the fair hills of Eiré, O !

The dewdrops lie bright mid the grass and yellow  
corn

On the fair hills of Eiré, O !

The sweet-scented apples blush redly in the morn

On the fair hills of Eiré, O !

The water-cress and sorrel fill the vales below,

The streamlets are hushed till the evening breezes  
blow,

While the waves of the Suir, noble river ! ever flow

Neath the fair hills of Eiré, O !

A fruitful clime is Eiré's, through valley, meadow,  
plain,

And the fair hills of Eiré, O !

The very bread of life is in the yellow grain

On the fair hills of Eiré, O !

Far dearer unto me than the tones music yields

Is the lowing of the kine and the calves in her fields,

In the sunlight that shone long ago on the shields

Of the Gaels, on the fair hills of Eiré, O !

## THE GERALDINE'S DAUGHTER (4)

(EGAN O'RAHILLY)

A beauty all stainless, a pearl of a maiden  
Has plunged me in trouble, and wounded my heart.

With sorrow and gloom is my soul overladen,  
An anguish is there, that will never depart.  
I could voyage to Egypt across the deep water,  
Nor care about bidding dear Eiré farewell,  
So I only might gaze on the Geraldine's daughter,  
And sit by her side in some green pleasant dell !

Her curling locks wave round her figure of lightness,  
All dazzling and long, like the purest of gold ;  
Her blue eyes resemble twin stars in their brightness,  
And her brow is like marble or wax to behold.  
The radiance of heaven illumines her features  
Where the snows and the rose have erected their  
    throne ;  
It would seem that the sun had forgotten all  
    creatures,  
To shine on the Geraldine's daughter alone.

Her bosom is swan-white, her waist smooth and  
    slender,  
Her speech is like music, so sweet and so free.  
The feelings that glow in her noble heart lend her  
A mien and a majesty lovely to see.  
Her lips, red as berries, but riper than any,  
Would kiss away even a sorrow like mine !  
No wonder such heroes and noblemen many  
Should cross the blue ocean to kneel at her shrine.

She is sprung from the Geraldine race, the great  
    Grecians,  
Niece of Mileadh's sons of the Valorous Bands,

Those heroes, the seed of the olden Phœnicians,  
Though now trodden down, without fame, without  
lands ;

Of her ancestors flourished the Barrys and Poers,  
To the Lords of Bunratty she too is allied,  
And not a proud noble near Cashel's high towers  
But is kin to this maiden, the Geraldine's pride.

Of Saxon or Gael there is none to excel in  
Her wisdom, her features, her figure, this fair ;  
In all she surpasses the far-famous Helen,  
Whose beauty drove thousands to death and despair.  
Whoe'er could but gaze on her aspect so noble  
Would feel from thenceforward all anguish depart ;  
Yet for me 'tis, alas, my worst woe and my trouble  
That her image must always abide in my heart !

A LAMENTATION FOR THE DEATH OF  
SIR MAURICE FITZGERALD, KNIGHT  
OF KERRY, WHO WAS KILLED IN  
FLANDERS, IN 1642

(PIERCE FERRITER)

There was lifted up one voice of woe,  
One lament of more than mortal grief,  
Through the wide south to and fro,  
For a fallen chief.  
In the dead of night that cry thrilled thro' me ;  
I looked out upon the midnight air.

Mine own soul was all as gloomy,  
As I knelt in prayer.

O'er Loch Gur, that night, once, twice, yea, thrice,  
Passed a wail of anguish for the brave,  
That half curdled into ice  
Its moon-mirroring wave.  
Then uprose a many-toned wild hymn in  
Choral swell from Ogra's dark ravine,  
And Mogeely's phantom women<sup>1</sup>  
Mourned the Geraldine!

Far on Carah Mona's emerald plains  
Shrieks and sighs were blended many hours,  
And Fermoy in fitful strains  
Answered from her towers.  
Youghal, Kinalmeaky, Imokilly,  
Mourned in concert, and their piercing *keen*  
Woke to wondering life the stilly  
Glens of Inchiquin.

From Loughmoe to yellow Dunanore  
There was fear; the traders of Tralee  
Gathered up their golden store,  
And prepared to flee;  
For in ship and hall, from night till morning  
Showed the first faint beamings of the sun,  
All the foreigners heard the warning  
Of the dreaded one!

<sup>1</sup> Banshees.

“This,” they spake, “portendeth death to us,  
If we fly not swiftly from our fate.”  
Self-conceited idiots, thus  
Ravingly to prate!  
Not for base-born higgling Saxon trucksters  
Ring laments like these by shore and sea;  
Not for churls with souls of hucksters  
Waileth our banshee!

For the high Milesian race alone  
Ever flows the music of her woe;  
For slain heir to bygone throne,  
And for chief laid low!  
Hark! . . . Again, methinks, I hear her weeping  
Yonder. Is she near me now, as then?  
Or was but the night-wind sweeping  
Down the hollow glen?

### ELLEN BAWN (5)

(TRADITIONAL)

Ellen Bawn, O Ellen Bawn, you darling, darling  
dear, you,  
Sit awhile beside me here; I'll die unless I'm near  
you!  
'Tis for you I'd swim the Suir and breast the Shan-  
non's waters;  
For, Ellen dear, you've not your peer in Galway's  
blooming daughters!

Had I Limerick's gems and gold at will to meet and  
measure,  
Were Loughrea's abundance mine, and all Port-  
tumna's treasure,  
These might lure me, might ensure me many and  
many a new love,  
But ah! no bribe could pay your tribe for one like  
you, my true love!

Blessings be on Connaught! That's the place for  
sport and raking;  
Blessings, too, my love, on you, a-sleeping and  
awaking!  
I'd have met you, dearest Ellen, when the sun went  
under,  
But, woe! the flooding Shannon broke across my  
path in thunder.

Ellen! I'd give all the deer in Limerick's parks and  
arbors,  
Aye, and all the ships that rode last year in Munster  
harbors,  
Could I blot from time the hour I first became your  
lover;  
For O! you've given my heart a wound it never can  
recover!

Were to God that in the sod my corpse to-night were  
lying,  
And the wild birds wheeling o'er it, and the winds  
a-sighing!



Since your cruel mother and your kindred choose to  
sever  
Two hearts that Love would blend in one for ever  
and for ever.

### O'HUSSEY'S ODE TO THE MAGUIRE<sup>1</sup> (6)

Where is my chief, my master, this bleak night,  
*mavrone?*  
O cold, cold, miserably cold is this bleak night for  
Hugh!  
Its showery, arrowy, speary sleet pierceth one thro'  
and thro',

<sup>1</sup> O'Hussey, the last hereditary bard of the great sept of Maguire, of Fermanagh, who flourished about 1630, possessed a fine genius. He commenced his vocation when quite a youth, by a poem celebrating the escape of the famous Hugh Roe O'Donnell from Dublin Castle, in 1591, into which he had been treacherously betrayed. The noble ode which O'Hussey addressed to Hugh Maguire, when that chief had gone on a dangerous expedition, in the depth of an unusually severe winter, is as interesting an example of the devoted affection of the bard to his chief, and as vivid a picture of intense desolation, as could be well conceived. Mr. Fergusson, in a fine piece of criticism on this poem, remarks: "There is a vivid vigor in these descriptions, and a savage power in the antithetical climax, which claim a character almost approaching to sublimity. Nothing can be more graphic, yet more diversified, than his images of unmitigated horror: nothing more grandly startling than his heroic conception of the glow of glory triumphant over frozen toil. We have never read this poem without recurring, and that by no unworthy association, to Napoleon in his Russian campaign. Yet, perhaps, O'Hussey has conjured up a picture of more inclement desolation, in his rude idea of northern horrors, than could be legitimately employed by a poet of the present day, when the romance of geographical obscurity no longer permits us to imagine the Phlegrean regions of endless storm, where the snows of Hæmus fall mingled with the lightnings of Etna, amid Bistonian wilds or Hyrcanian forests." — *Dublin University Magazine*, vol. iv.

Pierceth one to the very bone.  
Rolls real thunder? Or was that red livid light  
Only a meteor? I scarce know; but through the  
    midnight dim  
The pitiless ice-wind streams. Except the hate that  
    persecutes him,  
Nothing hath crueller venomy might.

An awful, a tremendous night is this, meseems!  
The flood-gates of the rivers of heaven, I think, have  
    been burst wide;  
Down from the overchargèd clouds, like to headlong  
    ocean's tide,  
Descends gray rain in roaring streams.

Tho' he were even a wolf ranging the round green  
    woods,  
Tho' he were even a pleasant salmon in the un-  
    chainable sea,  
Tho' he were a wild mountain eagle, he could scarce  
    bear, he,  
This sharp sore sleet, these howling floods.

O mournful is my soul this night for Hugh Maguire!  
Darkly as in a dream he strays. Before him and  
    behind  
Triumphs the tyrannous anger of the wounding wind,  
The wounding wind that burns as fire.

It is my bitter grief, it cuts me to the heart  
That in the country of Clan Darry this should be his  
    fate!

O woe is me, where is he? Wandering, houseless,  
desolate,  
Alone, without or guide or chart!

Medreams I see just now his face, the strawberry-  
bright,  
Uplifted to the blackened heavens, while the tempest-  
uous winds  
Blow fiercely over and round him, and the smiting  
sleet-shower blinds  
The hero of Galang to-night!

Large, large affliction unto me and mine it is  
That one of his majestic bearing, his fair stately form,  
Should thus be tortured and o'erborne; that this un-  
sparing storm  
Should wreak its wrath on head like his!

That his great hand, so oft the avenger of the op-  
pressed,  
Should this chill churlish night, perchance, be para-  
lyzed by frost;  
While through some icicle-hung thicket, as one lorn  
and lost,  
He walks and wanders without rest.

The tempest-driven torrent deluges the mead,  
It overflows the low banks of the rivulets and ponds;  
The lawns and pasture-grounds lie locked in icy  
bonds,  
So that the cattle cannot feed.

The pale-bright margins of the streams are seen by  
none;  
Rushes and sweeps along the untamable flood on  
every side;  
It penetrates and fills the cottagers' dwellings far and  
wide:  
Water and land are blent in one.

Through some dark woods, 'mid bones of monsters,  
Hugh now strays,  
As he confronts the storm with anguished heart, but  
manly brow.  
O what a sword-wound to that tender heart of his,  
were now  
A backward glance at peaceful days!

But other thoughts are his, thoughts that can still in-  
spire  
With joy and an onward-bounding hope the bosom of  
Mac-Nee:  
Thoughts of his warriors charging like bright billows  
of the sea,  
Borne on the wind's wings, flashing fire!

And tho' frost glaze to-night the clear dew of his  
eyes,  
And white ice-gauntlets glove his noble fine fair fin-  
gers o'er,  
A warm dress is to him that lightning-garb he ever  
wore,  
The lightning of the soul, not skies.

AVRAN<sup>1</sup>

Hugh marched forth to fight : I grieved to see him so  
depart.  
And lo ! to-night he wanders frozen, rain-drenched,  
sad, betrayed ;  
But the memory of the lime-white mansions his right  
hand hath laid  
In ashes, warms the hero's heart !

A LAMENT FOR THE PRINCES OF TY-  
RONE AND TYRCONNELL, BURIED IN  
SAN PIETRO MONTORIO AT ROME<sup>2</sup>

(OWEN ROE MAC AN BHAIRD)

O woman of the piercing wail, (7)  
Who mournest o'er yon mound of clay  
With sigh and groan,  
Would God thou wert among the Gael !  
Thou wouldst not then from day to day  
Weep thus alone.

<sup>1</sup> A concluding stanza, generally intended as a recapitulation of the entire poem.

<sup>2</sup> This is an elegy on the death of the princes of Tyrone and Tyrconnell, who, having fled with others from Ireland in the year 1607, and afterwards dying in Rome, were interred on St. Peter's Hill in one grave. The poem is the production of The O'Donnell's bard, Owen Roe Mac an Bhaird, or Ward, who accompanied the family in their exile ; it is addressed to Nuala, The O'Donnell's sister, who was also one of the fugitives. As the circumstances connected with the flight of the northern earls, which led to the subsequent confiscation of the six Ulster counties by James I. may not be immediately in the recollection of many of our readers, it may be proper briefly to state that it was caused by the discovery of a letter directed to Sir

'Twere long before around a grave  
In green Tyrconnell, one could find  
This loneliness ;  
Near where Beann-Boirche's banners wave,  
Such grief as thine could ne'er have pined  
Companionless.

William Ussher, Clerk of the Council, dropped in the council-chamber on the seventh of May, and which accused the northern chieftains generally of a conspiracy to overthrow the government. This charge is now totally disbelieved. As an illustration of the poem, and as an interesting piece in itself of hitherto unpublished literature, we extract the account of the flight as recorded in the *Annals of the Four Masters* and translated by Mr. O'Donovan : "Maguire (Cuconnaught), and Donogh, son of Mahon, who was son of the Bishop O'Brien, sailed in a ship to Ireland, and put in at the harbor of Swilly. They then took with them from Ireland the earl O'Neill (Hugh, son of Ferdoragh) and the Earl O'Donnell (Rory, son of Hugh, who was son of Magnus) and many others of the nobles of the province of Ulster. These are the persons who went with O'Neill, namely : his Countess Catherina, daughter of Magennis, and her three sons, Hugh, the Baron, John, and Brian ; Art Oge, son of Cormac, who was son of the Baron ; Ferdoragh, son of Con, who was son of O'Neill ; Hugh Oge, son of Brian, who was son of Art O'Neill ; and many others of his most intimate friends. These were they who went with the Earl O'Donnell, namely : Caffer, his brother, with his sister Nuala ; Hugh, the Earl's child, wanting three weeks of being one year old ; Rose, daughter of O'Doherty and wife of Caffer, with her son Hugh, aged two years and three months ; his (Rory's) brother's son Donnell Oge, son of Donnell ; Naghtan, son of Calvach, who was son of Donogh Cairbreach O'Donnell ; and many others of his intimate friends. They embarked on the festival of the Holy Cross in autumn. This was a distinguished company ; and it is certain that the sea has not borne and the wind has not wafted, in modern times, a number of persons in one ship more eminent, illustrious, or noble in point of genealogy, heroic deeds, valor, feats of arms, and brave achievements than they. Would that God had but permitted them to remain in their patrimonial inheritances until the children should arrive at the age of manhood ! Woe to the heart that meditated, woe to the mind that conceived, woe to the council that recommended the project of this expedition, without knowing whether they should, to the end of their lives, be able to return to their native principalities or patrimonies." The Earl of Tyrone was the illustrious Hugh O'Neill, the Irish leader in the wars against Elizabeth.

Beside the wave in Donegal,  
In Antrim's glens, or fair Dromore,  
Or Killillee,  
Or where the sunny waters fall  
At Assaroe, near Erna shore,  
This could not be.  
On Derry's plains, in rich Drumclieff,  
Throughout Armagh the Great, renowned  
In olden years,  
No day could pass but woman's grief  
Would rain upon the burial-ground  
Fresh floods of tears !

O no ! — From Shannon, Boyne, and Suir,  
From high Dunluce's castle-walls,  
From Lissadill,  
Would flock alike both rich and poor :  
One wail would rise from Cruachan's halls  
To Tara hill ;  
And some would come from Barrow-side,  
And many a maid would leave her home  
On Leitrim's plains,  
And by melodious Banna's tide,  
And by the Mourne and Erne, to come  
And swell thy strains !

Oh, horses' hoofs would trample down  
The mount whereon the martyr-saint <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> St. Peter. This passage is not exactly a blunder, though at first it may seem one : the poet supposes the grave itself transferred to Ireland, and he naturally includes in the transference the whole of the immediate locality around the grave.

Was crucified ;  
From glen and hill, from plain and town,  
One loud lament, one thrilling plaint,  
Would echo wide.  
There would not soon be found, I ween,  
One foot of ground among those bands  
For museful thought,  
So many shriekers of the *keen*<sup>1</sup>  
Would cry aloud, and clap their hands,  
All woe-distraught !

Two princes of the line of Conn  
Sleep in their cells of clay beside  
O'Donnell Roe :  
Three royal youths, alas ! are gone,  
Who lived for Erin's weal, but died  
For Erin's woe.  
Ah, could the men of Ireland read  
The names these noteless burial-stones  
Display to view,  
Their wounded hearts afresh would bleed,  
Their tears gush forth again, their groans  
Resound anew !

The youths whose relics moulder here  
Were sprung from Hugh, high prince and lord  
Of Aileach's lands ;  
Thy noble brothers, justly dear,  
Thy nephew, long to be deplored  
By Ulster's bands.

<sup>1</sup> *Gaoine*, the funeral-wail, pronounced *Keen*.



Theirs were not souls wherein dull time  
Could domicile decay, or house  
Decrepitude !

They passed from earth ere manhood's prime,  
Ere years had power to dim their brows,  
Or chill their blood.

And who can marvel o'er thy grief,  
Or who can blame thy flowing tears,  
That knows their source ?

O'Donnell, Dunnasava's chief,  
Cut off amid his vernal years,  
Lies here a corse  
Beside his brother Cathbar, whom  
Tyrconnell of the Helmets mourns  
In deep despair :  
For valor, truth, and comely bloom,  
For all that greatens and adorns,  
A peerless pair.

Oh, had these twain, and he, the third,  
The Lord of Mourne, O'Niall's son  
(Their mate in death,  
A prince in look, in deed and word),  
Had these three heroes yielded on  
The field their breath,  
Oh, had they fallen on Criffan's plain,  
There would not be a town nor clan  
From shore to sea,  
But would with shrieks bewail the slain,  
Or chant aloud the exulting *rann*<sup>1</sup>  
Of jubilee !

<sup>1</sup> Song.

When high the shout of battle rose,  
On fields where freedom's torch still burned  
Thro' Erin's gloom,  
If one, if barely one of those  
Were slain, all Ulster would have mourned  
The hero's doom!  
If at Athboy, where hosts of brave  
Ulidian horsemen sank beneath  
The shock of spears,  
Young Hugh O'Niall had found a grave,  
Long must the north have wept his death,  
With heart-wrung tears!

If on the day of Ballachmyre  
The Lord of Mourne had met, thus young,  
A warrior's fate,  
In vain would such as thou desire  
To mourn, alone, the champion sprung  
From Niall the Great!  
No marvel this: for all the dead,  
Heaped on the field, pile over pile,  
At Mullach-brack,  
Were scarce an *eric*<sup>1</sup> for his head,  
If Death had stayed his footsteps, while  
On victory's track!

If on the Day of Hostages  
The fruit had from the parent bough  
Been rudely torn,  
In sight of Munster's bands, Mac-Nee's,

<sup>1</sup> A compensation or fine.

Such blow the blood of Conn, I trow,  
Could ill have borne.  
If on the day of Balloch-boy,  
Some arm had laid, by foul surprise,  
The chieftain low,  
Even our victorious shout of joy  
Would soon give place to rueful cries  
And groans of woe !

If on the day the Saxon host  
Were forced to fly, a day so great  
For Ashanee,<sup>1</sup>  
The chief had been untimely lost,  
Our conquering troops should moderate  
Their mirthful glee.  
There would not lack on Lifford's day,  
From Galway, from the glens of Boyle,  
From Limerick towers,  
A marshalled file, a long array  
Of mourners to bedew the soil  
With tears in showers !

If on the day a sterner fate  
Compelled his flight from Athenry,  
His blood had flowed,  
What numbers all disconsolate  
Would come unasked, and share with thee  
Affliction's load !  
If Derry's crimson field had seen  
His life-blood offered up, though 'twere

<sup>1</sup> Ballyshannon.

On victory's shrine,  
A thousand cries would swell the *keen*,  
A thousand voices of despair  
Would echo thine !

Oh, had the fierce Dalcassian swarm  
That bloody night on Fergus' banks,  
But slain our chief  
When rose his camp in wild alarm,  
How would the triumph of his ranks  
Be dashed with grief !  
How would the troops of Murbach mourn  
If on the Curlew Mountains' day  
Which England rued,  
Some Saxon hand had left them lorn,  
By shedding there, amid the fray,  
Their prince's blood !

Red would have been our warrior's eyes  
Had Roderick found on Sligo's field  
A gory grave ;  
No northern chief would soon arise  
So sage to guide, so strong to shield,  
So swift to save.  
Long would Leith-Cuinn<sup>1</sup> have wept if Hugh  
Had met the death he oft had dealt  
Among the foe ;  
But, had our Roderick fallen too,  
All Erin must, alas, have felt  
The deadly blow.

<sup>1</sup> Leith-Cuinn, northern half of Ireland. Leith-Moga, southern half.

What do I say? Ah, woe is me!  
Already we bewail in vain  
Their fatal fall!  
And Erin, once the great and free,  
Now vainly mourns her breakless chain,  
And iron thrall.  
Then, daughter of O'Donnell, dry  
Thine overflowing eyes, and turn  
Thy heart aside,  
For Adam's race is born to die,  
And sternly the sepulchral urn  
Mocks human pride.

Look not, nor sigh, for earthly throne,  
Nor place thy trust in arm of clay,  
But on thy knees  
Uplift thy soul to God alone,  
For all things go their destined way  
As He decrees.  
Embrace the faithful crucifix,  
And seek the path of pain and prayer  
Thy Saviour trod;  
Nor let thy spirit intermix  
With earthly hope, with worldly care,  
Its groans to God!

And Thou, O mighty Lord! whose ways  
Are far above our feeble minds  
To understand,  
Sustain us in these doleful days,  
And render light the chain that binds  
Our fallen land!

Look down upon our dreary state,  
And thro' the ages that may still  
Roll sadly on,  
Watch thou o'er hapless Erin's fate,  
And shield at least from darker ill  
The blood of Conn !

### A LOVE SONG (8)

(TRADITIONAL)

Lonely from my home I come,  
To cast myself upon your tomb  
And to weep.  
Lonely from my lonesome home,  
My lonesome house of grief and gloom,  
While I keep  
Vigil often all night long,  
For your dear, dear sake,  
Praying many a prayer, so wrong,  
That my heart would break !

Gladly, O my blighted flower,  
Sweet apple of my bosom's tree !  
Would I now  
Stretch me in your dark death-bower  
Beside your corpse, and lovingly  
Kiss your brow.  
But we'll meet ere many a day  
Never more to part,  
For even now I feel the clay  
Gathering round my heart.

In my soul doth darkness dwell,  
And thro' its dreary winding caves  
Ever flows,  
Ever flows with moaning swell,  
One ebbless flood of many waves  
Which are woes.  
Death, love, has me in his lures ;  
But that grieves not me,  
So my ghost may meet with yours  
On yon moon-loved lea.

When the neighbors near my cot  
Believe me sunk in slumber deep,  
I arise  
(For, oh, 'tis a weary lot,  
This watching aye, and wooing sleep  
With hot eyes);  
I arise, and seek your grave,  
And pour forth my tears,  
While the winds that nightly rave  
Whistle in mine ears.

Often turns my memory back  
To that dear evening in the dell,  
When we twain  
Sheltered by the sloe-bush black,  
Sat, laughed, and talked, while thick sleet fell,  
And cold rain.  
Thanks to God ! no guilty leaven  
Dashed our childish mirth :  
You rejoice for this in Heaven,  
I not less on earth !

Love! the priests feel wroth with me,  
To find I shrine your image still  
In my breast,  
Since you are gone eternally,  
And your fair frame lies in the chill  
Grave at rest;  
But true love outlives the shroud,  
Knows nor check nor change,  
And beyond time's world of cloud  
Still must reign and range.

Well may now your kindred mourn  
The threats, the wiles, the cruel arts,  
Long they tried  
On the child they left forlorn!  
They broke the tenderest heart of hearts,  
And she died.  
Curse upon the love of show!  
Curse on pride and greed!  
They would wed you "high" — and woe!  
Here behold their meed.

### A LULLABY

(OWEN ROE O'SULLIVAN) (9)

O hushaby, baby! Why weepest thou?  
The diadem yet shall adorn thy brow,  
And the jewels thy sires had, long ago,  
In the regal ages of Eoghan and Conn,  
Shall all be thine.  
O hushaby, hushaby, child of mine!



My sorrow, my woe, to see thy tears,  
Pierce into my heart like spears.

I'll give thee that glorious apple of gold  
The three fair goddesses sought of old,  
I'll give thee the diamond sceptre of Pan,  
And the rod with which Moses, that holiest man,  
Wrought marvels divine :  
O hushaby, hushaby, child of mine !

I'll give thee that courser, fleet on the plains,  
That courser with golden saddle and reins,  
Which Falvey rode, the mariner-lord,  
When the blood of the Danes at Cashel-na-Nord  
Flowed like to dark wine :  
O hushaby, hushaby, child of mine !

I'll give thee the dazzling sword was worn  
By Brian on Cluan-tarava's morn,  
And the bow of Murrough, whose shaft shot gleams  
That lightened as when the arrowy beams  
Of the noon-sun shine :  
O hushaby, hushaby, child of mine !

And the hound that was wont to speed amain  
From Cashel's rock to Bunratty's plain,  
And the eagle from gloomy Aherlow,  
And the hawk of Skellig ; all these I'll bestow  
On thee and thy line :  
O hushaby, hushaby, child of mine !

And the golden fleece that Jason bore  
To Hellas' hero-peopled shore.

And the steed that Cuchullin bought of yore  
With cloak and necklet and golden store  
And meadows and kine :  
O hushaby, hushaby, child of mine !

And Connal's unpierceable shirt of mail,  
And the shield of Nish, the prince of the Gael ;  
These twain for thee, my babe, shall I win,  
With the flashing spears of Achilles and Finn,  
Each high as a pine :  
O hushaby, hushaby, child of mine !

And the swords of Diarmuid and fierce Fingal,  
The slayers on heath and (alas !) in hall ;  
And the charmed helmet that Oscar wore  
When he left Mac Treoin to welter in gore,  
Subdued and supine :  
O hushaby, hushaby, child of mine !

And the jewel wherewith Queen Eofa proved  
The valor and faith of the hero she loved ;  
The magic jewel that nerved his arm  
To work his enemies deadly harm  
On plain and on brine :  
O hushaby, hushaby, child of mine !

And the wondrous cloak renowned in song,  
The enchanted cloak of the dark Dubh-long,  
By whose powerful aid he battled amid  
The thick of his foes, unseen and hid.  
This, too, shall be thine :  
O hushaby, hushaby, child of mine !

The last, not least, of thy weapons, my son,  
Shall be the glittering glaive of O'Dunn,  
The gift from Ænghus' powerful hands,  
The hewer-down of the Fenian bands  
With edge so fine !  
O hushaby, hushaby, child of mine !

And a princess too, transcending all  
Who have held the hearts of men in thrall,  
Transcending Helen of history,  
Thy bride in thy palmier years shall be ;  
Thy bride heroine :  
O hushaby, hushaby, child of mine !

Even Hebe, who fills the nectar up  
For Love, in his luminous crystal cup,  
Shall pour thee out a wine in thy dreams,  
As bright as thy poet-father's themes  
When inspired by the Nine.  
O hushaby, hushaby, child of mine !

And silken robes, and sweet soft cates  
Shall thou wear and eat, beyond thy mates.  
Ah, see, here comes thy mother, Moirin !  
She, too, has the soul of an Irish queen :  
She scorns to repine !  
Then hushaby, hushaby, child of mine !  
My sorrow, my woe, to see thy tears,  
Pierce into my heart like spears.

## THE EXPEDITION AND DEATH OF KING DATHY (10)

King Dathy assembled his Druids and Sages,  
And thus he spake to them: "Druids and Sages!  
What of King Dathy?  
What is revealed in destiny's pages  
Of him or his? Hath he  
Aught for the future to dread or to dree?  
Good to rejoice in, or evil to flee?  
Is he a foe of the Gall  
Fitted to conquer, or fated to fall?"

And Beirdra the Druid made answer as thus:  
(A priest of a hundred years was he.)  
"Dathy! thy fate is not hidden from us!  
Hear it thro' me!  
Thou shalt work thine own will:  
Thou shalt slay, thou shalt prey,  
And be conqueror still!  
Thee the earth shall not harm!  
Thee we charter and charm  
From all evil and ill;  
Thee the laurel shall crown!  
Thee the wave shall not drown!  
Thee the chain shall not bind!  
Thee the spear shall not find!  
Thee the sword shall not slay!  
Thee the shaft shall not pierce!  
Thou, therefore, be fearless and fierce  
And sail with thy warriors away  
To the lands of the Gall,

There to slaughter and sway,  
And be victor o'er all !”

So Dathy he sailed away, away  
Over the deep resounding sea ;  
Sailed with his hosts in armor gray  
Over the deep resounding sea,  
Many a night and many a day ;  
And many an islet conquered he,  
He and his hosts in armor gray.  
And the billow drowned him not,  
And the fetter bound him not,  
And the blue spear found him not,  
And the red sword slew him not,  
And the swift shaft knew him not,  
And the foe o'erthrew him not.  
Till one bright morn, at the base  
Of the Alps, in rich Ausonia's regions,  
His men stood marshalled face to face  
With the mighty Roman legions.  
Noble foes !  
Christian and heathen stood there among those,  
Resolute all to overcome,  
Or die for the eagles of ancient Rome !

When, behold ! from a temple anear  
Came forth an aged priest-like man  
Of a countenance meek and clear ;  
Who, turning to Eiré's Ceann,<sup>1</sup>  
Spake him as thus : “ King Dathy, hear !

<sup>1</sup> *Ceann*, head, king.

Thee would I warn !  
Retreat, retire : repent in time  
The invader's crime.  
Or better for thee thou hadst never been born ! ”  
But Dathy replied : “ False Nazarene !  
Dost thou, then, menace Dathy, thou ?  
And dreamest thou that he will bow  
To one unknown, to one so mean,  
So powerless as a priest must be ?  
He scorns alike thy threats and thee !  
On, on, my men, to victory ! ”

And, with loud shouts for Eiré's King,  
The Irish rush to meet the foe,  
And falchions clash and bucklers ring, —  
When, lo !  
Lo ! a mighty earthquake shock !  
And the cleft plains reel and rock ;  
Clouds of darkness pall the skies ;  
Thunder crashes,  
Lightning flashes,  
And in an instant Dathy lies  
On the earth, a mass of blackened ashes !  
Then, mournfully and dolefully,  
The Irish warriors sailed away  
Over the deep resounding sea,  
Till, wearily and mournfully,  
They anchored in Eblana's Bay.  
Thus the Seanachies<sup>1</sup> and Sages  
Tell this tale of long-gone ages.

<sup>1</sup> *Seanachies*, historians.

THE WOMAN OF THREE COWS<sup>1</sup>

(TRADITIONAL)

O woman of three cows, agragh! don't let your  
tongue thus rattle:

O don't be saucy, don't be stiff, because you may  
have cattle.

I've seen (and here's my hand to you, I only say  
what's true!)

A many a one with twice your stock not half so  
proud as you.

Good luck to you, don't scorn the poor, and don't  
be their despiser,

For worldly wealth soon melts away, and cheats the  
very miser.

And death soon strips the proudest wreath from  
haughty human brows:

Then don't be stiff, and don't be proud, good  
woman of three cows!

See where Momonia's heroes lie, proud Owen  
More's descendants!

'Tis they that won the glorious name and had the  
grand attendants:

<sup>1</sup> This ballad, which is of homely cast, was intended as a rebuke to the saucy pride of a woman in humble life who assumed airs of consequence, being the owner of three cows. Its author's name is unknown, but its age can be determined from the language, as belonging to the early part of the seventeenth century. That it was formerly very popular in Munster may be concluded from the fact that the phrase "Easy, O woman of three cows!" has become a saying in that province on any occasion upon which it is desirable to lower the pretensions of a boastful or consequential person.

If they were forced to bow to fate, as every mortal  
bows,  
Can you be proud, can you be stiff, my woman of  
three cows?

The brave sons of the Lord of Clare, they left the  
land to mourning,  
Mavrone!<sup>1</sup> for they were banished, with no hope of  
their returning:  
Who knows in what abodes of want those youths  
were driven to house?  
Yet you can give yourself these airs, O woman of  
three cows!

O think of Donnell of the Ships, the chief whom  
nothing daunted!  
See how he fell in distant Spain, unchronicled,  
unchanted.  
He sleeps, the great O'Sullivan, whom thunder  
cannot rouse:  
Then ask yourself, should you be proud, good  
woman of three cows!

O'Ruark, Maguire, those souls of fire whose names  
are shrined in story,  
Think how their high achievements once made Erin's  
greatest glory;  
Yet now their bones lie mouldering under weeds and  
cypress boughs,  
And so, for all your pride, will yours, O woman of  
three cows!

<sup>1</sup> My grief.



The O'Carrolls, also, famed when fame was only for  
the boldest,  
Rest in forgotten sepulchres with Erin's best and  
oldest;  
Yet who so great as they of yore in battle and  
carouse?  
Just think of that, and hide your head, good woman  
of three cows.

Your neighbor's poor, and you, it seems, are big  
with vain ideas,  
Because, inagh,<sup>1</sup> you've got three cows; one more, I  
see, than she has!  
That tongue of yours wags more, at times, than  
charity allows:  
But if you're strong, be merciful, great woman of  
three cows!

#### Avran

Now there you go: you still, of course, keep up your  
scornful bearing;  
And I'm too poor to hinder you. But, by the cloak  
I'm wearing,  
If I had but four cows myself, even though you  
were my spouse,  
I'd thwack you well to cure your pride, my woman  
of three cows!

<sup>1</sup> Forsooth.

A FAREWELL TO PATRICK SARSFIELD,  
LORD LUCAN (11)

(TRADITIONAL)

Farewell, O Patrick Sarsfield: may luck be on your  
path!

Your camp is broken up; your work is marred for  
years.

But you go to kindle into flame the King of France's  
wrath,

Though you leave sick Eiré in tears.

(*Och, ochone!*)

May the white sun and moon rain glory on your  
head,

All hero as you are, and holy man of God!

To you the Saxons owe a many an hour of dread

In the land you have often trod.

(*Och, ochone!*)

The Son of Mary guard you, and bless you to the  
end!

'Tis altered is the time when your legions were astir.

When at Cullen you were hailed as a conqueror and  
friend,

And you crossed Narrow-water, near Birr.

(*Och, ochone!*)

I'll journey to the north, over mount, moor, and  
wave:

'Twas there I first beheld, drawn up in file and line,

The brilliant Irish hosts ; they were bravest of the  
brave,  
But, alas, they scorned to combine.  
(*Och, ochone !*)

I saw the royal Boyne, when his billows flashed with  
blood ;  
I fought at Graine Og, where a thousand horsemen  
fell ;  
On the dark empurpled plain of Aughrim, too, I  
stood,  
On the plain by Tuberdonny's well.  
(*Och, ochone !*)

To the heroes of Limerick, the city of the fights,  
Be my best blessing borne on the wings of the air !  
We had card-playing there o'er our camp-fires at  
night,  
And the Word of Life too, and prayer.  
(*Och, ochone !*)

But for you, Londonderry, may plague smite and  
slay  
Your people, may ruin desolate you stone by stone !  
Thro' you there's many a gallant youth lies coffinless  
to-day,  
With the winds for mourners alone.  
(*Och, ochone !*)

I clomb the high hill on a fair summer noon,  
And saw the Saxons muster, clad in armor blinding-  
bright :

Oh, rage withheld my hand, or gunsman and dragoon  
Should have supped with Satan that night !

(*Och, ochone !*)

How many a noble soldier, how many a cavalier  
Careered along this road, seven fleeting weeks ago,  
With silver-hilted sword, with matchlock and with  
spear,

Who now, *mavrone !* lieth low.

(*Och, ochone !*)

All hail to thee, Ben Edir !<sup>1</sup> but ah, on thy brow  
I see a limping soldier, who battled and who bled  
Last year in the cause of the Stuart, though now  
The worthy is begging his bread.

(*Och, ochone !*)

And Diarmuid, O Diarmuid ! he perished in the  
strife ;

His head it was spiked upon a halbert high ;

His colors they were trampled ; he had no chance of  
life

If the Lord God Himself stood by !

(*Och, ochone !*)

But most, O my woe ! I lament and lament  
For the ten valiant heroes who dwell nigh the Nore,  
And my three blessed brothers ; they left me, and  
they went

To the wars, and returned no more.

(*Och, ochone !*)

<sup>1</sup> Ben Edir : the beautiful Hill of Howth, near Dublin.

On the bridge of the Boyne was our first overthrow ;  
By Slaney the next, for we battled without rest ;  
The third was at Aughrim. O Eiré, thy woe  
Is a sword in my bleeding breast.

*(Och, ochone !)*

Oh, the roof above our heads, it was barbarously fired,  
While the black Orange guns blazed and bellowed  
around !

And as volley followed volley, Colonel Mitchel<sup>1</sup> in-  
quired,

Whither Lucan still stood his ground ?

*(Och, ochone !)*

But O'Kelly still remains, to defy, and to toil.

He has memories that hell won't permit him to  
forget,

And a sword that will make the blue blood flow like oil  
Upon many an Aughrim yet !

*(Och, ochone !)*

And I never shall believe that my fatherland can fall,  
With the Burkes,<sup>2</sup> and the Decies, and the son of  
royal James,

And Talbot the captain, and Sarsfield above all,

The beloved of damsels and dames.

*(Och, ochone !)*

<sup>1</sup> Colonel Mitchelburne, the Governor of Derry, in the Williamite service.

<sup>2</sup> The five of the De Burgo or Burke family who were loyal to James II. : Lords Clanrickard, Brittas, Bophin, Castleconnell, and Galway. "The son of royal James" is the famous James Fitz James, Duke of Berwick, subsequently Marshal, Duke, and Peer of France.

## THE RUINS OF DONEGAL CASTLE (12)

(TRADITIONAL)

O mournful, O forsaken pile  
What desolation dost thou dree !  
How tarnished is the beauty that was thine erewhile,  
Thou mansion of chaste melody.

Demolished lie thy towers and halls ;  
A dark, unsightly earthen mound  
Defaces the pure whiteness of thy shining walls,  
And solitude doth gird thee round.

Fair fort, thine hour has come at length,  
Thine older glory has gone by.  
Lo, far beyond thy noble battlements of strength  
Thy corner-stones all scattered lie.

Where now, O rival of the gold  
Emania, be thy wine-cups all ?  
Alas, for these thou now hast nothing but the cold,  
Cold stream that from the heavens doth fall !

Thy clay-choked gateways none can trace  
Thou fortress of the once bright doors ;  
The limestones of thy summit now bestrew thy base,  
Bestrew the outside of thy floors ;

Above thy shattered window-sills  
The music that to-day breaks forth  
Is but the music of the wild winds of the hills,  
The wild winds of the stormy north.

What spell o'er came thee, mighty fort,  
What fatal fit of slumber strange,  
O palace of the wine, O many-gated court !  
That thou shouldst undergo this change ?

Thou wert, O bright-walled, beaming one  
Thou cradle of high deeds and bold !  
The Tara of assemblies to the sons of Conn,  
Clan Connell's council-hall of old ;

Thou wert a new Emania, thou,  
A northern Cruachan in thy might,  
A dome like that which stands by Boyne's broad  
                  water now,  
Thou Erin's Rome of all delight !

In thee were Ulster's tributes stored,  
And lavished like the flowers in May.  
And into thee were Connaught's thousand treasures  
                  poured,  
Deserted tho' thou art to-day !

How often from thy turrets high,  
Thy purple turrets, have we seen  
Long lines of glittering ships, when summer-time  
                  drew nigh,  
With masts and sails of snow-white sheen !

How often seen when gazing round  
From thy tall towers, the hunting trains  
The blood-enlivening chase, the horseman and the  
                  hound,  
Thou fastness of a hundred plains !

How often to thy banquet bright  
We have seen the strong-armed Gaels repair,  
And when the feast was over, once again unite  
For battle, in thy basscourt fair !

Alas for thee, thou fort forlorn ;  
Alas for thy low, lost estate :  
It is my woe of woes, this melancholy morn  
To see thee left thus desolate.

O there hath come of Connell's race  
A many and many a gallant chief  
Who, if he saw thee now, thou of the once glad  
face,  
Could not dissemble his deep grief.

Could Manus of the lofty soul  
Behold thee as this day thou art,  
Thou of the regal towers ! what bitter, bitter dole  
What agony would rend his heart !

Could Hugh MacHugh's imaginings  
Portray for him the rueful plight,  
What anguish, O thou palace of the northern kings !  
Were his, thro' many a sleepless night.

Could even the mighty prince whose choice  
'Twas to o'erthrow thee, could Hugh Roe  
But view thee now, methinks, he would not much  
rejoice  
That he had laid thy turrets low.



Oh, who could dream that one like him,  
One sprung of such a line as his,  
Thou of the embellished walls ! would be the man to  
    dim  
Thy glories by a deed like this ?

From Hugh O'Donnell, thine own brave  
And far-famed sovereign, came the blow ;  
By him, thou lonesome castle o'er the Esky's wave !  
By him was wrought thine overthrow.

Yet not because he wished thee ill,  
Left he thee thus bereaven and void :  
The prince of the victorious tribe of Dalach still  
Loved thee, yea, thee whom he destroyed.

He brought upon thee all this woe,  
Thou of the fair-proportioned walls !  
Lest thou shouldst ever yield a shelter to the foe,  
Shouldst house the black ferocious Galls ;

Shouldst yet become, in saddest truth,  
A *Dun-na-Gall*,<sup>1</sup> the stranger's own :  
For this cause only, stronghold of the Gaelic youth !  
Lie thy majestic towers o'erthrown.

It is a drear, a dismal sight,  
This of thy ruin and decay,  
Now that our kings, and bards, and men of mark of  
    might,  
Are nameless exiles far away.

<sup>1</sup> Fort of the Foreigner.

Yet better thou shouldst fall, meseems,  
By thine own king of many thrones,  
Than that the truculent Galls should rear around thy  
streams  
Dry mounds, and circles of great stones.

As doth in many a desperate case  
The surgeon by the malady,  
So hath, O shield and bulwark of great Coffey's race!  
Thy royal master done by thee.

The surgeon, if he be but wise,  
Examines till he learns and sees  
Where lies the fountain of his patient's health, where  
lies  
The germ and root of his disease ;

Then cuts away the gangrened part,  
That so the sounder may be freed  
Ere the disease hath power to reach the sufferer's  
heart,  
And so bring death without remead.

Now thou hast held the patient's place  
And thy disease hath been the foe ;  
So he, thy surgeon, O proud house of Dalach's race !  
Who should he be if not Hugh Roe ?

But he, thus fated to destroy  
Thy shining walls, will yet restore  
And raise thee up anew in beauty and in joy,  
So that thou shalt not sorrow more.

By God's help, he who wrought thy fall  
Will reinstate thee yet in pride ;  
Thy variegated halls shall be rebuilt all,  
Thy lofty courts, thy chambers wide.

Yes, thou shalt live again, and see  
Thy youth renewed ; thou shalt outshine  
Thy former self by far, and Hugh shall reign in thee,  
The Tyrconnellian's king, and thine.

### SANCTA OPERA DOMINI.

(JOHN MURPHY)

Holy are the works of Mary's blessed Son,  
Holy are His mercies unto every one.  
Holy is the sun that lighteth heaven ;  
Holy is the weather, morn and even ;  
Holy is the wind that woos the flowers ;  
Holy are the gentle April showers ;  
Holy is the summer's cheering glow ;  
Holy is the rain God sends below.  
Holy are all in His abodes of love,  
Holy is every Heaven of His above,  
Holy is the sun and every star :  
Holy is He who sends their light afar.  
Holy are the winds that fall and rise ;  
Holy are the waters and the skies ;  
Holy is all outspread beneath His eye.  
Holy are the birds He formed to fly ;  
Holy are the hazel woodlands green ;  
Holy are the vineyards in their sheen :

Holy are the fruits they bear and bring,  
Holy is the earth wherefrom they spring.  
Holy is the ever-circling Heaven ;  
Holy is every thought to Jesus given ;  
Holy is all that He hath made, and sees,  
Holy are all His ways and His decrees.  
Holy are the ocean strands and floods ;  
Holy are the dark umbrageous woods ;  
Holy are the herbs and plants and flowers ;  
Holy is all creation with her powers ;  
Holy are the earth's four-corner bosoms ;  
Holy are the mossy rocks and blossoms.  
Holy is fire that giveth light and cheer ;  
Holy is all that I have written here.  
Holy is the sea's voice, calm or hoarse,  
Holy are the streamlets in their course ;  
Holy are the healthy moorlands bare,  
Holy are the fishes, and the air.  
Holy are the Counsel and the Will,  
Holy are God's works, and most pure from ill.  
Holy are His laws, His faith and troth ;  
Holy are His wrath and patience both.  
Holy is Heaven with its nine Orders bright,  
Holy is Jesus, its great Lord and light :  
Holy is Heaven, above all holiness,  
Holy is the King the angels bless.  
Holy are the saints in Heaven that be ;  
Holy is the adorable Trinity :  
Holy are all high Heaven's works and words,  
Holy is love, the saints' love and the Lords' !

KATHALEEN NY-HOULAHAN<sup>1</sup> (13)

(TRADITIONAL)

Long they pine in weary woe, the nobles of our land,  
Long they wander to and fro, proscribed, alas! and  
banned;

Feastless, houseless, altarless, they bear the exile's  
brand;

But their hope is in the coming-to of Kathaleen Ny-  
Houlahan!

Think her not a ghastly hag too hideous to be seen,  
Call her not unseemly names, our matchless  
Kathaleen!

Young she is, and fair she is, and would be crowned  
a queen,

Were the king's son at home here with Kathaleen  
Ny-Houlahan!

Sweet and mild would look her face, O none so sweet  
and mild,

Could she crush the foes by whom her beauty is  
reviled;

Woollen plaids would grace herself, and robes of silk  
her child,

If the king's son were living here with Kathaleen  
Ny-Houlahan!

Sore disgrace it is to see the arbitress of thrones  
Vassal to a *Saxoneen* of cold and sapless bones!

<sup>1</sup> *Anglice*, Catherine O'Holohan, a name by which Ireland was allegorically known.

Bitter anguish wrings our souls; with heavy sighs  
and groans  
We wait the young deliverer of Kathaleen Ny-  
Houlahan!

Let us pray to Him who holds life's issues in His  
hands,  
Him who formed the mighty globe, with all its  
thousand lands;  
Girdling them with seas and mountains, rivers deep,  
and strands,  
To cast a look of pity upon Kathaleen Ny-Houlahan!

He who over sands and waves led Israel along,  
He who fed with heavenly bread that chosen tribe  
and throng,  
He who stood by Moses when his foes were fierce  
and strong,—  
May He show forth His might in saving Kathaleen  
Ny-Houlahan!

## WELCOME TO THE PRINCE

(WILLIAM HEFFERNAN) (14)

Lift up the drooping head,  
Meehal Dubh Mac-Giolla Kierin!<sup>1</sup>  
Her blood yet boundeth red  
Through the myriad veins of Erin.  
No, no, she is not dead  
Meehal Dubh Mac-Giolla Kierin!

<sup>1</sup> Dark Michael M'Gilla Kerin, Prince of Ossory.

Lo! she redeems  
The lost years of bygone ages :  
New glory beams  
Henceforth on her history's pages !  
Her long penitential night of sorrow  
Yields at length before the reddening morrow !  
You heard the thunder-shout,  
Meehal Dubh Mac-Giolla Kierin !  
Saw the lightning streaming out  
O'er the purple hills of Erin !  
And bide you yet in doubt,  
Meehal Dubh Mac-Giolla Kierin ?  
O doubt no more !  
Through Ulidia's voiceful valleys,  
On Shannon's shore,  
Freedom's burning spirit rallies.  
Earth and Heaven unite in sign and omen <sup>1</sup>  
Bodeful of the downfall of our foemen.

Thurot commands the North,  
Meehal Dubh Mac-Giolla Kierin !  
Louth sends her heroes forth  
To hew down the foes of Erin !  
Swords gleam in field and *gorth*,<sup>2</sup>  
Meehal Dubh Mac-Giolla Kierin !  
Up, up, my friend !  
There's a glorious goal before us ;

<sup>1</sup> This is an allusion to that well-known atmospherical phenomenon of the "cloud armies," which is said to have been so common about this period in Scotland.

<sup>2</sup> *Gorth* literally means Garden.

Here will we blend  
Speech and soul in this grand chorus :  
“ By the Heaven that gives us one more token,  
We will die, or see our shackles broken ! ”

Charles leaves the Grampian Hills,  
Meehal Dubh Mac-Giolla Kierin !  
Charles, whose appeal yet thrills  
Like a clarion-blast, through Erin.  
Charles, he whose image fills  
Thy soul, too, Mac-Giolla Kierin !  
Ten thousand strong,  
His clans move in brilliant order,  
Sure that ere long  
He will march them o’er the border,  
While the dark-haired daughters of the Highlands  
Crown with wreaths the Monarch of three islands.

Fill, then, the ale-cup high,  
Meehal Dubh Mac-Giolla Kierin !  
Fill ! the bright hour is nigh  
That shall give her own to Erin.  
Those who so sadly sigh,  
Even as you, Mac-Giolla Kierin,  
Henceforth shall sing.  
Hark ! O’er heathery hill and dell come  
Shouts for the King !  
Welcome, our deliverer, welcome !  
Thousands this glad night, ere turning bedward,  
Will with us drink “ Victory to Charles Edward ! ”



## THE SONG OF GLADNESS

(WILLIAM HEFFERNAN)

It was on a balmy evening, as June was departing fast,  
That alone, and meditating in grief on the times a-past,  
I wandered through the gloomsome shades  
Of bosky Aherlow,  
A wilderness of glens and glades.  
When suddenly, a thrilling strain of song  
Broke forth upon the air in one incessant flow,  
Sweeter it seemed to me, (both voice and word,)  
Than harmony of the harp, or carol of the bird,  
For it foretold fair Freedom's triumph, and the doom  
of Wrong.

The celestial hymns and anthems, that far o'er the  
sounding sea  
Come to Erin from the temples of bright-bosomed  
Italy;  
The music which from hill and rath  
The playful fairy race  
Pour on the wandering warrior's path,  
Bewildering him with wonder and delight,  
Or the cuckoo's full note from some green sunless  
place,  
Some sunken thicket in a stilly wood,  
Had less than that rich melody made mine Irish blood  
Bound in its veins for ecstasy, or given my soul new  
might!

And while so I stood and listened, behold, thousand  
    swarms of bees,  
All arrayed in gay gold armor, shone red through the  
    dusky trees !  
I felt a boding in my soul,  
A truthful boding too,  
That Erin's days of gloom and dole  
Will soon be but remembered as a dream,  
And the olden glory show eclipséd by the new.  
Where will the Usurper<sup>1</sup> then be ? Banished far !  
Where his vile hireling henchmen ? Slaughtered all  
    in war !  
For blood shall rill down every hill, and blacken  
    every stream.

I am Heffernan of Shronehill : my land mourns in  
    thraldom long ;  
And I see but one sad sight here, the weak trampled  
    by the strong.  
Yet if to-morrow, underneath  
A burial stone I lay,  
Clasped in the skeleton arms of death,  
And if a pilgrim wind again should waft  
Over my noteless grave the song I heard to-day,  
I would spring up revived, reborn,  
A living soul again, as on my birthday morn,  
Ay ! even though confined, over-earthed, tombed-in,  
    and epitaphed !

<sup>1</sup> George I.

## THE DREAM OF JOHN MAC DONNELL

(JOHN MAC DONNELL, USUALLY CALLED MAC DONNELL CLARAGH)

I lay in unrest. Old thoughts of pain,  
That I struggled in vain to smother,  
Like midnight spectres haunted my brain;  
Dark fantasies chased each other;  
When, lo! a figure — who might it be?  
A tall fair figure stood near me!  
Who might it be? An unreal Banshee,  
Or an angel sent to cheer me?

Though years have rolled since then, yet now  
My memory thrillingly lingers  
On her awful charm, her waxen brow,  
Her pale translucent fingers,  
Her eyes that mirrored a wonder-world,  
Her mien of unearthly mildness,  
And her waving raven tresses that curled  
To the ground in beautiful wildness.

“Whence comest thou, spirit?” I asked, methought,  
“Thou art not one of the banished?”  
Alas, for me, she answered nought,  
But rose aloft and vanished;  
And a radiance, like to a glory, beamed  
In the light she left behind her.  
Long time I wept, and at last, medreamed,  
I left my shieling to find her. (15)

And first I turned to the thunderous north,  
To Gruagach's mansion kingly ;  
Untouching the earth, I then sped forth  
To Inver-lough, and the shingly  
And shining strand of the fishful Erne,  
And thence to Cruachan the golden,  
Of whose resplendent palace ye learn  
So many a marvel olden. '

I saw the Mourna's billows flow ;  
I passed the walls of Shenady,  
And stood in the hero-thronged Ardroe,  
Embosked amid greenwoods shady ;  
And visited that proud pile that stands  
Above the Boyne's broad waters,  
Where Ænghus dwells with his warrior-bands  
And the fairest of Ulster's daughters.

To the halls of Mac Lir, to Creevroe's height,  
To Tara, the glory of Erin,  
To the fairy palace that glances bright  
On the peak of the blue Cnocfeerin,  
I vainly hied. I went west and east ;  
I travelled seaward and shoreward ;  
But thus was I greeted at field and at feast :  
" Thy way lies onward and forward ! "

At last I reached, I wist not how,  
The royal towers of Ival,  
Which under the cliff's gigantic brow  
Still rise without a rival.

And here were Thomond's chieftains all  
With armor and swords and lances,  
And here sweet music filled the hall,  
And damsels charmed with dances.

And here, at length, on a silver throne  
Half-seated, half-reclining,  
With forehead white as the marble stone,  
And garments starrily shining,  
And features beyond a poet's pen,  
The sweetest, saddest features,  
Appeared before me once again  
The fairest of living creatures !

"Draw near, O mortal!" she said with a sigh,  
"And hear my mournful story.  
The guardian spirit of Erin am I,  
But dimmed is mine ancient glory.  
My priests are banished, my warriors wear  
No longer victory's garland,  
And my child, my son, my beloved heir,  
Is an exile in a far land."

I heard no more, I saw no more ;  
The bonds of slumber were broken :  
And palace and hero, and river and shore  
Had vanished and left no token.  
Dissolved was the spell that had bound my will  
And my fancy thus, for a season.  
But a sorrow therefore hangs over me still  
Despite the teachings of reason.

## THE SORROWS OF INNISFAIL

(GEOFFREY KEATING) (16)

Through the long drear night I lie awake, for the  
sorrows of Innisfail.

My bleeding heart is ready to break; I cannot but  
weep and wail.

O shame and grief and wonder! her sons crouch  
lowly under

The footstool of the paltriest foe

That ever yet hath wrought them woe.

How long, O Mother of light and song, how long  
will they fail to see

That men must be bold, no less than strong, if they  
truly will to be free?

They sit but in silent sadness, while wrongs that  
should rouse them to madness,

Wrongs that might wake the very dead,

Are piled on thy devoted head!

Thy castles, thy towers, thy palaces proud, thy stately  
mansions all,

Are held by the knaves who crossed the waves to  
lord it in Brian's hall.

Britannia, alas! is portress in Cobhthach's golden  
fortress,

And Ulster's and Momonia's lands

Are in the robber stranger's hands.

The tribe of Eoghan is worn with woe ; the O'Donnell reigns no more ;  
O'Niall's remains lie mouldering low, on Italy's far-off shore ;  
And the youths of the pleasant valley are scattered,  
and cannot rally,  
While foreign despotism unfurls  
A flag 'mid hordes of base-born churls.

The chieftains of Naas were valorous lords, but  
their valor was crushed by craft :  
They fell beneath envy's butcherly dagger, and calumny's poisoned shaft.  
A few of their mighty legions yet languish in alien regions,  
But most of them, the frank, the free,  
Were slain through Saxon perfidy.

Ah, lived the princes of Ainy's plains, and the  
heroes of green Domgole,  
And the chiefs of the Mauige, we still might hope to  
baffle our doom and dole.  
Well then might the dastards shiver who herd by the  
blue Bride river !  
But ah, those great and glorious men  
Shall draw no glaive on earth again !

All-powerful God ! look down on the tribes who  
mourn throughout the land,  
And raise them some deliverer up, of a strong and  
smiting hand.

Oh! suffer them not to perish, the race Thou wert  
wont to cherish,  
But soon avenge their fathers' graves,  
And burst the bonds that keep them slaves!

LEATHER AWAY WITH THE  
WATTLE, O! (17)

(THOMAS COTTER)

Last night, while stars did glisten  
By a hillside near the cove,  
I sat awhile to listen  
The sweet bird's pleasant lays of love.  
A damsel tall of stature  
With golden tresses long and low,  
Which, (loveliest sight in Nature!)  
Down to the bright green grass did flow,  
And breast as fair as snow in air,  
Without compare for beauteous show,  
Stood near, and sang me sweetly :  
"Come, Leather Away with the Wattle, O!"

Her eyebrows dark and slender  
Were each bended like a bow ;  
Her eyes beamed love as tender  
As only poets feel and know ;  
Her face where rose and lily  
Were both portrayed in brightest glow,  
Her mien so mild and stilly,  
All made my full heart overflow !



A tale she told of that Prince bold  
Whose crown of gold the Gael doth hold.  
I hearkened, all-delighted,  
To "Leather Away with the Wattle, O!"

I asked this lovely creature  
Was she Helen famed of yore,  
(So like she seemed in feature!)  
Whose name will live forevermore;  
Or Dierdre, meekest, fairest,  
Whom Uisneach's sons wrought direful woe;  
Or Cearnaid, richest, rarest,  
Who first made mills on water go;  
Or Meadhbh the young, of ringlets long?  
So sweet her song along did flow,  
Her song so rich and charming  
Of "Leather Away with the Wattle, O!"

And thus in tones unbroken,  
While sweet music filled her eye,  
In accents blandly spoken  
The damsel warbled this reply:  
"Albeit I know and blame not  
Your marvellous poetic lore,  
You know mine ancient name not,  
Tho' once renowned from shore to shore;  
I am Innis famed, of Heroes named,  
Forsaken, lost in pain and woe,  
But waiting for a chorus  
To 'Leather Away with the Wattle, O!'

They died in war, for ages,  
The brave sons of Art and Eoghan,

Mute are the bards and sages,  
And ah, the priests are sad and lone.  
But Charles, despising danger,  
Shall soon ascend green Eiré's throne,  
And drive the Saxon stranger  
Afar from hence to seek his own.  
Then, full of soul and freed from dole,  
Without control the wine shall flow,  
And we will sing in chorus :  
'Come, Leather Away with the Wattle, O ! ' "

### LAMENT FOR BANBA <sup>1</sup>

(EGAN O'RAHILLY)

O my land, O my love !  
What a woe, and how deep,  
Is thy death to my long-mourning soul !  
God alone, God above,  
Can awake thee from sleep,  
Can release thee from bondage and dole !  
(Alas, alas, and alas,  
For the once proud people of Banba !)

As a tree in its prime,  
Which the axe layeth low,  
Didst thou fall, O unfortunate land !  
Not by time, nor thy crime,  
Came the shock and the blow :  
They were given by a false felon hand !

<sup>1</sup> Banba (*Banva*) was one of the most ancient names given by the Bards to Ireland.

(Alas, alas, and alas,  
For the once proud people of Banba !)

O my grief of all griefs  
Is to see how thy throne  
Is usurped, whilst thyself art in thrall !  
Other lands have their chiefs,  
Have their kings ; thou alone  
Art a wife, yet a widow withal.  
(Alas, alas, and alas,  
For the once proud people of Banba !)

The high house of O'Niall  
Is gone down to the dust,  
The O'Brien is clanless and banned ;  
And the steel, the red steel,  
May no more be the trust  
Of the faithful and brave in the land.  
(Alas, alas, and alas,  
For the once proud people of Banba !)

True, alas ! wrong and wrath  
Were of old all too rife.  
Deeds were done which no good man admires.  
And perchance Heaven hath  
Chastened us for the strife  
And the blood-shedding ways of our sires !  
(Alas, alas, and alas,  
For the once proud people of Banba !)

But, no more ! This our doom,  
While our hearts yet are warm,

Let us not over-weakly deplore ;  
For the hour soon may loom  
When the Lord's mighty hand  
Shall be raised for our rescue once more !  
And our grief shall be turned into joy  
For the still proud people of Banba !

## THE DAWNING OF THE DAY<sup>1</sup>

(O'DORAN)

'Twas a balmy summer morning,  
Warm and early,  
Such as only June bestows ;  
Everywhere, the earth adorning,  
Dews lay pearly  
In the lily-bell and rose.  
Up from each green leafy bosk and hollow  
Rose the blackbird's pleasant lay.  
And the soft cuckoo was sure to follow.  
'Twas the dawning of the day !

Through the perfumed air the golden  
Bees flew round me ;  
Bright fish dazzled from the sea ;  
Till medreamt some faëry olden

<sup>1</sup> The following song, translated from the Irish of O'Doran, refers to a singular atmospherical phenomenon said to be sometimes observed at Black-rock, near Dundalk, at daybreak, by the fishermen of that locality. Many similar narratives are to be met with in the poetry of almost all countries ; but O'Doran has endeavored to give the legend a political coloring, of which, I apprehend, readers in general will hardly deem it susceptible.

World-spell bound me  
In a trance of witchery !  
Steeds pranced round anon with stateliest housings,  
Bearing riders pranked in rich array,  
Like flushed revellers after wine-carousings :  
'Twas the dawning of the day !

Then a strain of song was chanted,  
And the lightly  
Floating sea-nymphs drew anear.  
Then again the shore seemed haunted  
By hosts brightly  
Clad, and wielding shield and spear !  
Then came battle-shouts, an onward rushing,  
Swords, and chariots, and a phantom fray.  
Then all vanished. The warm skies were blushing  
In the dawning of the day !

Cities girt with glorious gardens,  
(Whose immortal  
Habitants, in robes of light,  
Stood, methought, as angel-wardens  
Nigh each portal,)  
Now arose to daze my sight.  
Eden spread around, revived and blooming;  
When . . . lo ! as I gazed, all passed away.  
I saw but black rocks and billows looming  
In the dim chill dawn of day.

## DIRGE FOR THE O'SULLIVAN BEARE (18)

In Ivera there is darkness,  
(Darkness, darkness;)  
In Ivera there is darkness.  
And the laughing dancer's tread,  
And joyous music, and the voice of song  
Are heard no more; the day it weareth long,  
For O'Sullivan lies dead,  
Dead in stiffest starkness,  
(Stiffest starkness !)

O the false, false traitor Scully,  
(Scully, Scully !)  
O the false, false traitor Scully !  
He who should have helped his chief,  
He basely sold him, basely sold the good  
Great man to whom he owed his life and blood.  
Perfidy beyond belief !  
God requite him fully,  
(Well and fully.)

O may all earth's blackest evils,  
(Evils, evils,)  
O may all earth's blackest evils  
Haunt him on life's briary path !  
May sickness waste him to and thro' the bone !  
And when he stands before God's judgment throne,  
May that just God, in His wrath,  
Give him up to devils,  
(Up to devils !)

Never will we, O no, never,  
(Never, never,)  
Never will we, O no, never  
Pardon him who thus could sell  
His generous chief to death and foul disgrace!  
May heaven's fair light grow black upon his face!  
May the burning marl of hell  
Be his bed for ever,  
(And for ever!)

Didst thou fall by sword and slaughter,  
(Slaughter, slaughter.)  
Had they slain thee in fair slaughter,  
Tho' thy corpse were one red wound,  
I would not weep: but ah, the woe to kill,  
To rack, to butcher thee; and, ghastlier still,  
Drag thee, like a fish harpooned,  
Thro' the blood-streaked water,  
(Thro' the water!)

And thy headless trunk was buried,  
(Buried, buried,)  
And thy headless trunk was buried  
Distant from thy fathers' graves;  
In no green spot of holy Christian ground  
They laid thee, 'neath no consecrated mound.  
To a pit, by ruffian slaves,  
Wert thou darkly hurried,  
(Darkly hurried.)

And they spiked thy head so gory,  
(Gory, gory,)

Yes! they spiked thy head so gory,  
As thine were a felon's end,  
High, high above the jail. Tempest and rain  
Alone shall wave those long black locks again,  
Lightning only ever lend  
Those dimmed eyes a glory,  
(Lend a glory.)

There is keening, there is weeping,  
(Weeping, weeping.)  
There is keening, there is weeping  
Thro' the once glad haunts of song;  
Ivera's broken heart is bleeding now;  
Funeral gloom has darkened every brow,  
And the chill day waxeth long,  
For our chief lies sleeping,  
(Ever sleeping.)

O thou ocean of blue billows!  
(Billows, billows,)  
O thou ocean of blue billows!  
From Cork harbor to Bearhaven  
A curse this blessed night lies on thy flood.  
For with its wave is blent the pure heart-blood  
Of that chief whose head, whose raven  
Locks, the storm-wind pillows.  
(Storm-wind pillows!)



Translations, Chiefly from the German



## THE MAID OF ORLEANS

(SCHILLER)

At thee the mocker<sup>1</sup> sneers in cold derision,  
Thro' thee he seeks to desecrate and dim  
Glory for which he hath no soul nor vision,  
For God and angel are but sounds with him.  
He makes the jewels of the heart his booty,  
And scoffs at man's belief and woman's beauty.

Yet thou, a lowly shepherdess, descended  
Not from a kingly but a godly race,  
Art crowned by Poesy : amid the splendid  
Of Heaven's high stars she builds thy dwelling-  
place,  
Garlands thy temples with a wreath of glory,  
And swathes thy memory in eternal story.

The base of this weak world exult at seeing  
The fair defaced, the lofty in the dust ;  
Yet grieve not : there are godlike hearts in being  
Which worship still the beautiful and just.  
Let Momus and his mummers please the crowd !  
Of nobleness alone a noble mind is proud.

<sup>1</sup> Voltaire.

## THE FISHERMAN

(GOETHE)

The waters rush, the waters roll; a fisherman sits  
    angling by.  
He gazes o'er their glancing floor with sleepy brow  
    and listless eye;  
And while he looks and while he lolls, the flood is  
    moved as by a storm  
And slowly from its heaving depth ascends a humid  
    woman's form.

She sings, she speaks: "Why lure, why wile, with  
    human craft, with human snare  
My little brood, my helpless brood, to perish in this  
    fiery air?  
Ah, couldst thou guess the dreamy bliss we feel  
    below the purple sea,  
Thou wouldst forsake the earth and all, to dwell  
    beneath with them and me.

The moon, the sun, their travel done, come down to  
    sleep in ocean caves;  
They reascend their glorious thrones with doubled  
    beauty from the waves.  
Ah, sure the blue ethereal dew, the shining heaven  
    these waters show,  
Nay, e'en thine own reflected face, must draw thee,  
    win thee, down below."

The waters rush, the waters roll; about his naked  
feet they move.  
An aching longing fills his soul, as when we look on  
her we love.  
She sings to him, she speaks to him : alas, he feels  
that all is o'er;  
She drags him down; his senses swim: the fisher-  
man is seen no more.

## MIGNON'S SONG

(GOETHE)

O dost thou know the clime where citron fruits are  
blooming fair?  
The gold-hued orange burns amid the dusky greenery  
there;  
From skies of speckless blue are wafted airlets warm  
and soft;  
There sleepy myrtles grow; there trees of laurel  
stand aloft.  
That bright land dost thou know?  
Thither with thee, my love, I long to go.

And dost thou know the pile, with roof on colon-  
nades reclining?  
The broad saloon is bright, the chambers there are  
darkly shining;  
And alabaster forms look down upon me pityingly:  
“Alas, unhappy child, what ill the world has done to  
thee!”

That dwelling dost thou know?  
Thither, protector mine, with thee I'll go.

Knowest thou the mountain's brow? Its pathway  
clouds and shadows cover:  
Amid the darkling mist, the mule pursues his blind  
way over.

The dragon and his brood lurk in a thousand cavern-  
hollows;

The rent rock topples down; the headlong sweep of  
water follows.

That mountain dost thou know?  
Thither our way lies. Father! let us go.

## NATURE MORE THAN SCIENCE

(RÜCKERT)

I have a thousand thousand lays,  
Compact of myriad myriad words,  
And so can sing a million ways,  
Can play at pleasure on the chords  
Of tunèd harp or heart;  
Yet is there one sweet song  
For which in vain I pine and long;  
I cannot reach that song, with all my minstrel-art!

A shepherd sits within a dell  
O'ercanopied from rain and heat:  
A shallow but pellucid well  
Doth ever bubble at his feet.

His pipe is but a leaf,  
Yet there, above that stream,  
He plays and plays, as in a dream,  
One air, that steals away the senses like a thief.

A simple air, it seems in truth,  
And who begins will end it soon ;  
Yet, when that hidden shepherd youth  
So pours it in the ear of noon,  
Tears flow from those anear.  
All songs of yours and mine  
Condensed in one, were less divine  
Than that sweet air to sing, that sweet, sweet air to  
hear !

'Twas yesternoon he played it last :  
The hummings of a hundred bees  
Were in mine ears ; yet, as I passed,  
I heard him through the myrtle trees.  
Stretched all along he lay  
Mid foliage half-decayed ;  
His lambs were feeding while he played ;  
And sleepily wore on the stilly summer-day. (19)

## THE DYING FLOWER

(RÜCKERT)

“ Drop not, poor flower ! There's hope for thee.  
The spring again will breathe and burn,  
And glory robe the kingly tree  
Whose life is in the sun's return ;

And once again its buds will chime  
Their peal of joy from viewless bells,  
Though all the long dark winter-time  
They mourned within their dreary cells."

"Alas, no kingly tree am I,  
No marvel of a thousand years :  
I cannot dream a winter by,  
And wake with song when spring appears !  
At best, my life is kin to death ;  
My little all of being flows  
From summer's kiss, from summer's breath,  
And sleeps in summer's grave of snows."

"Yet, grieve not ! Summer may depart,  
And beauty seek a brighter home :  
But thou that bearest in thy heart  
The germ of many a life to come,  
Mayst lightly reck of autumn's storms ;  
Whate'er thy individual doom  
Thine essence, blent with other forms,  
Will still shine out in radiant bloom."

"Yes : moons will wane ; and bluer skies  
Breathe blessing forth for flower and tree.  
I know that while the unit dies,  
The myriad live immortally ;  
But shall my soul survive in them ?  
Shall I be all I was before ?  
Vain dream ! I wither, soul and stem :  
I die, and know my place no more.



The sun may lavish life on them ;  
His light, in summer morns and eves,  
May color every dewy gem  
That sparkles on their tender leaves ;  
But this will not avail the dead :  
The glory of his wondrous face  
Who now rains lustre on my head,  
Can only mock my burial-place.

And woe to me, fond foolish one,  
To tempt an all-consuming ray,  
To think a flower could love a sun,  
Nor feel her soul dissolve away !  
O could I be what once I was  
How should I shun his fatal beam !  
Wrapt in myself, my life should pass  
But as a still dark painless dream.

But vainly in my bitterness  
I speak the language of despair :  
In life, in death, I still must bless  
The sun, the light, the cradling air.  
Mine early love to them I gave,  
And now that yon bright orb on high  
Illumines but a wider grave,  
For them I breathe my final sigh.

How often soared my soul aloft  
In balmy bliss too deep to speak,  
When Zephyr came, and kissed with soft  
Sweet incense-breath my blushing cheek,

When beauteous bees and butterflies  
Flew round me in the summer beam,  
Or when some virgin's glorious eyes  
Bent o'er me like a dazzling dream !

Ah, yes ! I know myself a birth  
Of that all-wise Almighty Love  
Which made the flower to bloom on earth,  
And sun and stars to burn above ;  
And if, like them, I fade and fail,  
If I but share the common doom,  
Let no lament of mine bewail  
My dark descent to Hades' gloom.

Farewell, thou lamp of this green globe !  
Thy light is on my dying face,  
Thy glory tints my faded robe,  
And clasps me in a death-embrace.  
Farewell, thou balsam-dropping spring !  
Farewell, ye skies that beam and weep !  
Unhoping, and unmurmuring,  
I bow my head and sink to sleep."

## GONE IN THE WIND

(RÜCKERT)

Solomon, where is thy throne ? It is gone in the wind.  
Babylon, where is thy might ? It is gone in the wind.  
Like the swift shadows of noon, like the dreams of  
the blind,  
Vanish the glories and pomps of the earth in the wind.

Man, canst thou build upon aught in the pride of thy  
mind?

Wisdom will teach thee that nothing can tarry behind :  
Tho' there be thousand bright actions embalmed and  
enshrined,

Myriads and millions of brighter are snow in the wind.

Solomon, where is thy throne? It is gone in the wind.  
Babylon, where is thy might? It is gone in the wind.  
All that the genius of man hath achieved or designed  
Waits but its hour to be dealt with as dust by the  
wind.

Say, what is pleasure? A phantom, a mask undefined;  
Science? An almond, whereof we can pierce but the  
rind;

Honor and affluence? *Firmans* that Fortune hath  
signed,

Only to glitter and pass on the wings of the wind.

Solomon, where is thy throne? It is gone in the  
wind.

Babylon, where is thy might? It is gone in the  
wind.

Who is the fortunate? He who in anguish hath  
pined!

He shall rejoice when his relics are dust in the wind.

Mortal, be careful with what thy best hopes are en-  
twined;

Woe to the miners for Truth, where the lampless  
have mined!

Woe to the seekers on earth for what none ever find:  
They and their trust shall be scattered like leaves on  
the wind.

Solomon, where is thy throne? It is gone in the  
wind.

Babylon, where is thy might? It is gone in the  
wind.

Happy in death are they only whose hearts have  
consigned

All earth's affections and longings and cares to the  
wind.

Pity thou, reader, the madness of poor humankind  
Raving of knowledge; (and Satan so busy to blind!)  
Raving of glory, like me; for the garlands I bind,  
Garlands of song, are but gathered, and strewn in the  
wind.

Solomon, where is thy throne? It is gone in the  
wind.

Babylon, where is thy might? It is gone in the  
wind.

I, Abul-Namez, must rest; for my fire is declined,  
And I hear voices from Hades like bells on the wind.

## THE GLAIVE SONG

(THEODOR KÖRNER<sup>1</sup>)

“Glaive that lightenest by my side,  
What may mean thy bright sheen?  
Glaive that lightenest by my side,  
Wouldst thou woo me as a bride,  
To the red battle-ground,  
Hurrah!  
Where the thunders of the cannon resound?  
Hurrah!  
Where the thunders of the cannon resound?”

“Gallant master, valiant knight!  
I rejoice in thy voice!  
Gallant master, valiant knight!  
I so shine, so lighten bright,

<sup>1</sup> “Körner, as most of my readers are aware, was one of the most enthusiastic and heroic of those young German patriots who so nobly rose up in the year 1813, to protect the liberties of their fatherland against foreign aggression. He was gifted with both genius and courage of a high degree; and the character of his short life, which terminated at the early age of twenty-two, is faithfully symbolized by the lyre and sword which stand crossed upon his tomb at Babelow, in Mecklenburgh-Schwerin. The following song, which he is said to have written a few hours before his death on the battle-plain of Gadebusch, in August, 1813, has long held rank among the young Germanists as their Marseillaise; but no translation of it worth looking at, so far as I am aware, has as yet appeared in English, and perhaps I may not have succeeded better than others in my attempt to transpose the spirit of it into that language. To be thoroughly understood and felt it should be heard in the Burschensaal at Jena, where the students sing it in chorus, crossing their swords with each other at the recurrence of each ‘Hurrah!’” It is needless to add that Mangan never so heard it.

I, thy bride and thy glaive,  
Hurrah!  
Because wedded to a hero so brave,  
Hurrah!  
Because wedded to a hero so brave!"

" True! my joyous brilliant steel,  
I am brave, am no slave;  
True! my joyous brilliant steel!  
And to-day, for woe or weal,  
Here I plight thee my troth,  
Hurrah!  
It is victory or death for us both!  
Hurrah!  
It is victory or death for us both!"

" O thy bride delights to hear  
That glad shout thus rung out!  
O thy bride delights to hear  
That proud peal so clarion-clear!  
When, O when dawns the day,  
Hurrah!  
When thou bearest thy beloved away,  
Hurrah!  
When thou bearest thy beloved away?"

" When the drums beat loud to arms  
Then is born that bright morn!  
When the drums beat loud to arms,  
When the thrilling bugle warms  
The quick blood in all veins;  
Hurrah!

Then I bear thee to the red battle-plains,  
Hurrah !

Then I bear thee to the red battle-plains ! ”

“ O that glorious day of days,  
May its noon shine out soon,  
Shine out soon with blood-red rays !

O that glorious day of days !

May it dawn and expire,

Hurrah !

Amid trumpet-blasts and thunder and fire,

Hurrah !

Amid trumpet-blasts and thunder and fire ! ”

“ Why so restless, bride of mine ?

Why just now startedst thou ?

Why so restless, bride of mine,

In that iron room of thine ?

Thou art restless and wild,

Hurrah !

Thou art wild in thy delight as a child,

Hurrah !

Thou art wild in thy delight as a child ! ”

“ Wild I am in my delight —

Wild and glad, wild and mad !

Wild I am in my delight —

Thirsting, burning for the fight,

When the glaive and the gun,

Hurrah !

Blend the lightning and the earthquake in one,

Hurrah !

Blend the lightning and the earthquake in one ! ”

“ Quiet thee, my hope, my heart :  
Bear the gloom of thy room !  
Quiet thee, my hope, my heart :  
Bide a season where thou art.  
Thou shalt soon be released,  
Hurrah !  
And shalt banquet at the great battle-feast,  
Hurrah !  
And shalt banquet at the great battle-feast ! ”

“ I must forth ! O let us rove,  
Hand in hand, o’er the land.  
I must forth ! I burn to rove  
Through the gardens of my love,  
Where the roses, blood-red,  
Hurrah !  
Bloom in brilliantest array o’er the dead,  
Hurrah !  
Bloom in brilliantest array o’er the dead ! ”

“ As thou wilt, then, faithful one !  
South or north, we’ll go forth !  
As thou wilt, then, faithful one.  
Let us follow fortune on  
Over hill, dell, and heath,  
Hurrah !  
Till I deck thee with my first laurel-wreath,  
Hurrah !  
Till I deck thee with my first laurel-wreath ! ”

“ O joy ! joy ! Lead on, O lead !  
Now are we truly free.



O joy ! joy ! Lead on, O lead !  
Onward, forward, will we speed  
To the broad nuptial-plain,  
Hurrah !  
Where we'll wed amid the tempest and red rain,  
Hurrah !  
Where we'll wed amid the tempest and red rain !”

So spake out, in joy and pride,  
On their way to the fray,  
So spake out, in joy and pride  
One young bridegroom and his bride.  
Up, then, youth of the land !  
Hurrah !  
Up, and proffer your beloved the hand !  
Hurrah !  
Up and proffer your beloved the hand.

Let her not hang down her head,  
Her, your bride, by your side !  
Let her not hang down her head,  
By your side, as one half-dead :  
Let her feel your embrace,  
Hurrah !  
Let her glory shed its rays on your face,  
Hurrah !  
Let her glory shed its rays on your face !

Press her bright mouth unto yours !  
Cold it seems, but its beams  
Are the brave man's warmest lures.  
Press her bright mouth unto yours !

She should not be denied,  
Hurrah!  
Cursed is he who basely turns from the bride,  
Hurrah!  
Cursed is he who basely turns from the bride.

Brothers, look! The morning breaks.  
Up, arise! for time flies:  
Brothers, look! The morning breaks,  
The sky reddens, the earth shakes.  
Are you true men and good?  
Hurrah!  
Then be foremost at the Bridal of Blood!  
Hurrah!  
Stand up foremost at the Bridal of Blood!

## ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND THE TREE

(DE LA MOTTE FOUQUÉ)

The sun is warm, the air is bland,  
The heavens wear that stainless blue  
Which only in an orient land  
The eye of man may view;  
And lo! around, and all abroad  
A glittering host, a mighty horde;  
And at their head a demigod  
Who slays with lightning sword.

The bright noon burns, but idly now  
Those warriors rest by vale and hill,

And shadows on their leader's brow  
Seem ominous of ill.  
Spell-bound, he stands beside a tree;  
And well he may, for, through its leaves  
Unstirred by wind, come brokenly  
Moans, as of one that grieves.

How strange ! he thought : life is a boon  
Given and resumed ; but how, and when ?  
E'en now, I asked myself how soon  
I should go home again ;  
How soon I might again behold  
My mourning mother's tearful face,  
How soon my kindred might enfold  
Me in their dear embrace !

There was an Indian magian there,  
And, stepping forth, he bent his knee.  
" O King ! " he said, " be wise : beware  
This too prophetic tree."  
" Ha ! " cried the King, " thou knowest, then, seer,  
What yon strange oracle reveals ? "  
" Alas ! " the magian said, " I hear  
Deep words like thunder-peals.

I hear the groans of more than man,  
Hear tones that warn, denounce, beseech ;  
Hear, woe is me ! how darkly ran  
That strain of thrilling speech.  
' O King, ' it spake, ' all-trampling King,  
Thou ledest legions from afar,  
But battle droops his clotted wing, (20)  
Night menaces thy star !

Fond visions of thy boyhood's years  
Dawn like dim light upon thy soul;  
Thou seest again thy mother's tears  
Which love could not control.  
Ah, thy career in sooth is run,  
Ah, thou indeed returnest home;  
The mother waits to clasp her son  
Low in her gloomful dome!

Yet go rejoicing: he who reigns  
O'er earth alone, leaves worlds unscanned;  
Life binds the spirit as with chains:  
Seek thou the phantom-land!  
Leave conquest all it looks for here;  
Leave willing slaves a bloody throne;  
Thine henceforth is another sphere:  
Death's realm, the dark unknown!'"

The magian ceased. The leaves were hushed,  
But wailings broke from all around;  
Until the chief, whose red blood flushed  
His cheek with hotter bound,  
Spake in the tones of one with whom  
Fear never yet had been a guest:  
"And when doth Fate achieve my doom?  
And where shall be my rest?"

"O noble heart!" the magian said,  
And tears unbidden filled his eyes,  
"We should not weep for thee; the dead  
Change but their home and skies;  
The moon shall beam, the myrtles bloom  
For thee no more; yet, sorrow not!

The immortal pomp of Hades' gloom  
Best consecrates thy lot.

In June, in June, in laughing June,  
And where the dells show deepest green,  
Pavilioned overhead at noon  
With gold and silver sheen,  
These be for thee the place, the time.  
Trust not thy heart, trust not thine eyes :  
Beyond the mount thy warm hopes climb  
The land of darkness lies !”

Unblenching at the fateful words,  
The hero turned around in haste.  
“On, on !” he cried, “ye million swords :  
Your course, like mine, is traced.  
Let me but close life's narrow span  
Where weapons clash and banners wave !  
I would not live to mourn that man  
But conquers for a grave.”

## STREW THE WAY WITH FLOWERS

(HÖLTY)

O strew the way with rosy flowers,  
And dupe with smiles thy grief and gloom !  
For tarnished leaves and songless hours  
Await thee in the tomb.  
Lo, in the brilliant festal hall  
How lightly youth and beauty tread !

Yet, gaze again : the grass is tall  
Above their charnel bed.

In blaze of noon the jewelled bride  
Before the altar plights her faith :  
Ere weep the skies of eventide  
Her eyes are dulled in death.  
Then sigh no more. If life be brief,  
So are its woes ; and why repine ?  
Pavilioned by the linden leaf,  
We'll quaff the chaliced wine.

Wild music from the nightingale  
Comes floating on the loaded breeze,  
To mingle in the bowery vale  
With hum of summer bees ;  
Then taste the joys that God bestows,  
The beaded wine, the faithful kiss !  
For while the tide of pleasure flows,  
Death bares his black abyss.

In vain the zephyr's breath perfumes  
The house of death ; in vain its tones  
Shall mourn at midnight round the tombs  
Where sleep our blackening bones.  
The star-bright bowl is broken there,  
The witchery of the lute is o'er,  
And, wreck of wrecks ! there lie the fair  
Whose beauty wins no more.

## THE ERL-KING'S DAUGHTER (21)

(HERDER)

Sir Olf rode fast toward Thurlston's walls  
To meet his bride in his father's halls.

He saw blue lights flit over the graves;  
The elves came forth from their forest caves.

They dance anear on the glossy strand,  
And the erl-king's daughter held out her hand.

*" Oh, welcome, Sir Olf! to our jubilee :  
Step into the circle, and dance with me."*

" I dare not dance, I dare not stay :  
To-morrow will be my nuptial day ! "

*" Two golden spurs will I give to thee ;  
And I pray thee, Sir Olf, to tarry with me."*

" I dare not tarry, I dare not delay :  
To-morrow is fixed for my nuptial day ! "

*" Will give thee a shirt so white and fine  
Was bleached yestreen in the new moonshine."*

" I dare not hearken to elf nor fay !  
To-morrow is fixed for my nuptial day."

*" A measure of gold I will give unto thee ;  
And I pray thee, Sir Olf, to dance with me."*

“The measure of gold will I carry away,  
But I dare not dance, and I dare not stay.”

*“Then, since thou wilt go, even go with a blight!  
A true-lover’s token I leave thee, sir knight.”*

She lightly struck with her wand on his heart,  
And he swooned and swooned from the deadly smart;

She lifted him up on his coal-black steed:  
“*Now hie thee away with a fatal speed!*”

Then shone the moon, and howled the wolf,  
And the sheen and the howl awoke Sir Olf.

He rode over mead, he rode over moor;  
He rode till he rode to his own house door.

Within sat, white as the marble, his bride;  
But his gray-haired mother stood watching outside.

“My son, my son, thou art haggard and wan!  
Thy brow is the brow of a dying man.”

“And haggard and wan I well may be,  
For the erl-king’s daughter hath wounded me.”

“I pray thee, my son, dismount, and bide.  
There is mist on the eyes of thy pining bride.”

“O mother! I should but drop dead from my steed.  
I will wander abroad for the strength I need.”



“And what shall I tell thy bride, my son,  
When the morning dawns, and the tiring is done?”

“Oh, tell my bride that I rode to the wood  
With my hounds in leash, and my hawk in hood.”

When morning dawned with crimson and gray,  
The bride came forth in her wedding array.

They poured out mead, they poured out wine:  
“Now, where is thy son, O gold-mother mine?”

“My son, gold-daughter, rode into the wood,  
With his hounds in leash, and his hawk in hood.”

Then the bride grew sick with an ominous dread:  
“Ah, woe is me! for Sir Olf is dead.”

She drooped like a lily that feels the blast;  
She drooped, and drooped, till she died; at last

They rest in the charnel side by side,  
The stricken Sir Olf and his faithful bride.

But the erl-king's daughter dances still  
Where the moonlight sleeps on the frosted hill.

## THE GRAVE, THE GRAVE

(MAHLMANN)

Blest are the dormant  
In death: they repose  
From bondage and torment,  
From passions and woes,  
From the yoke of the world and the snares of the  
traitor.

The grave, the grave is the true liberator!

Griefs chase one another  
Around the earth's dome;  
In the arms of the mother  
Alone is our home.  
Woo pleasure, ye triflers! The thoughtful are wiser:  
The grave, the grave is their one tranquillizer!

Is the good man unfriended  
On life's ocean-path,  
Where storms have expended  
Their turbulent wrath?  
Are his labors requited by slander and rancor?  
The grave, the grave is his sure bower-anchor!

To gaze on the faces  
Of lost ones anew,  
To lock in embraces  
The loved and the true,  
Were a rapture to make even Paradise brighter.  
The grave, the grave is the great reuniter!

Crown the corpse then with laurels,  
The conqueror's wreath,  
Make joyous with carols  
The chamber of death,  
And welcome the victor with cymbal and psalter :  
The grave, the grave is the only exalter !

## A SONG

(CONRAD WETZEL)

When the roses blow,  
Man looks out for brighter hours ;  
When the roses glow,  
Hope relights her lampless bowers.  
Much that seemed, in winter gloom,  
Dark with heavy woe,  
Wears a gladsome hue and bloom  
When the roses blow,  
When the roses blow ;  
Wears a gladsome hue and bloom  
When the roses blow !

When the roses blow,  
Love that slept shall wake anew ;  
Merrier blood shall flow  
Through the springald's veins of blue.  
And if sorrow wrang the heart,  
Even that shall go :  
Pain and mourning must depart  
When the roses blow,  
When the roses blow ;

Pain and mourning must depart  
When the roses blow !

When the roses blow, (22)  
Look to heaven, my fainting soul :  
There, in stainless show,  
Spreads the veil that hides thy goal.  
Not while winter breathes his blight,  
Burst thy bonds below :  
Let the earth look proud and bright,  
Let the roses blow,  
Let the roses blow.  
O let earth look proud and bright,  
Let the roses blow !

TO LUDWIG UHLAND ON THE LAST  
VOLUME OF HIS POEMS (23)

(JUSTINUS KERNER)

As a headlong stream that winter had bound,  
When spring re-showers her beams on the plains  
Breaks loose with a fierce impatient sound  
From its icy chains :

As a tree, despoiled by the axe of the north  
Of his leaves of green, and fruits of gold,  
New leaves, new fruits, afresh puts forth,  
As bright as the old :

As riotous wine, whose fiery strength  
By the walls of the flask was prisoned long,

Out-gushes in purple pride at length,  
A bubbling song :

As the pealing of some vast organ floats  
On the air to the ear of him who has heard,  
In many long days, but the piping notes  
Of the coppice bird :

So rushes, Umland ! so streams and rolls  
The flood of thy song, a flood of fire !  
So thrills thro' the depths of all hearts and souls  
The might of thy lyre !

## THE POET'S CONSOLATION (24)

(JUSTINUS KERNER)

What tho' no maiden's tears ever be shed  
O'er my clay bed,  
Yet will the generous night never refuse  
To weep its dew.

And tho' no friendly hand garland the cross  
Above my moss,  
Still will the dear, dear moon tenderly shine  
Down on that sign.

And if the saunterer-by songlessly pass  
Thro' the long grass,  
There will the noontide bee pleasantly hum,  
And warm winds come.

Yes, you at least, ye dells, meadows, and streams,  
Stars and moonbeams,  
Will think on him whose weak meritless lays  
Teemed with your praise !

### THE LOVE-ADIEU

(UHLAND)

Fare thee well, fare thee well, my dove !  
Thou and I must sever ;  
One fond kiss, one fond kiss of love,  
Ere we part for ever :

And one rose, one red rose, Marie,  
Choose me from the bowers ;  
But no fruit, ah ! no fruit for me,  
Naught but fragile flowers.

### A DRINKING-SONG

(ALOYS SCHREIBER)

Look, look ! this wine is German.  
Therefore streams it full and flowing,  
Therefore beams it bold and glowing ;  
Therefore, like a thirsty merman,  
Quaff the brilliant cup divine :  
Brother, this is German wine !

Fill, fill a bumper goblet !  
Fill it high, and toast our olden

Fatherland, and them, the golden  
Maids and men who aye ennoble it.  
Fill the purple cup divine :  
Brother, this is German wine !

Drink, drink to ancient usage :  
May their memory greenly flourish,  
Who of yore were first to nourish  
Flesh and soul with this, and grew sage,  
Quaffing such immortal wine.  
Drink the Fathers of the vine !

Toast, toast the resurrection  
Of our country from her torpor !  
We have spurned the French usurper ;  
Freedom binds us and affection,  
Me with thee, and mine with thine :  
Toast our triumph here in wine !

German worth and German wine,  
German speech and German manners,  
Be the motto on our banners !  
None can tremble, none can pine,  
While he drinks of German wine.

### SWABIAN POPULAR SONG

Where are they, the belovèd,  
The gladsome, all ?  
Where are they, the belovèd,  
The gladsome, all ?

They left the festal hearth and hall.  
They pine afar from us in alien climes.  
O, who shall bring them back to us once more?  
Who shall restore  
Life's fairy floral times?  
Restore  
Life's fairy floral times?

Where are they, the belovèd,  
The gallant, all?  
Where are they, the belovèd,  
The gallant, all?  
At freedom's thrilling clarion-call  
They went forth in the pride of youthhood's powers.  
O, who shall give them back to us once more?  
Who shall restore  
Long-buried hearts and hours?  
Restore  
Long-buried hearts and hours?

Where are they, the belovèd,  
The gifted, all?  
Where are they, the belovèd,  
The gifted, all?  
They would not yield their souls the thrall  
Of gold, nor sell the glory of their lays.  
O, who shall give them back to us once more?  
Who shall restore  
The bright young songful days?  
Restore  
The bright young songful days?



God only can restore us  
The lost ones all,  
But God He will restore us  
The lost ones all !  
What tho' the future's shadows fall  
Dark o'er their fate, seen darker through our tears,  
Our God will give them back to us once more.  
He can restore  
The vanished golden years ;  
Restore  
The vanished golden years !

## HOLINESS TO THE LORD

(OTTO RUNGE)

There blooms a beautiful Flower, it blooms in a far-  
off land ;  
Its life has a mystic meaning for few to understand.  
Its leaves illumine the valley, its odor scents the  
wood ;  
And if evil men come near it, they grow for the  
moment good.

When the winds are tranced in slumber, the rays of  
this luminous Flower  
Shed glory more than earthly o'er lake and hill and  
bower ;  
The hut, the hall, the palace, yea, earth's forsakenest  
sod,  
Shine out in the wondrous lustre that fills the heaven  
of God.

Three Kings came once to a hostel wherein lay the  
Flower so rare :  
A star shone over its roof, and they knelt adoring there.  
Whenever thou seest a damsel whose young eyes  
dazzle and win,  
O pray that her heart may cherish this Flower of  
Flowers within !

### THE RIDE AROUND THE PARAPET (25)

(RÜCKERT)

She said : " I was not born to mope at home in loneliness,"

The Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

She said : " I was not born to mope at home in loneliness.

When the heart is throbbing sorest, there is balsam in the forest,

There is balsam in the forest for its pain,"

Said the Lady Eleanora,

Said the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

She doffed her silks and pearls, and donned instead her hunting-gear,

The Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

She doffed her silks and pearls, and donned instead her hunting-gear,

And, till summer-time was over, as a huntress and a rover

Did she couch upon the mountain and the plain,

She, the Lady Eleanora,

Noble Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

Returning home again, she viewed with scorn the  
tournaments,

The Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

Returning home again, she viewed with scorn the  
tournaments;

She saw the morions cloven, and the crowning chap-  
lets woven,

And the sight awakened only the disdain

Of the Lady Eleanora,

Of the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

“My feeling towards man is one of utter scornful-  
ness,”

Said Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

“My feeling towards man is one of utter scornful-  
ness;

And he that would o’ercome it, let him ride around  
the summit

Of my battlemented castle by the Maine!”

Said the Lady Eleanora,

Said the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

So came a knight anon to ride around the parapet  
For Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

So came a knight anon to ride around the parapet:

Man and horse were hurled together o’er the crags  
that beetled nether.

Said the lady, “There, I fancy, they’ll remain!”

Said the Lady Eleanora,

Queenly Lady Eleanora von Alleyne!

Then came another knight to ride around the parapet  
For Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

Then came another knight to ride around the parapet.  
Man and horse fell down, asunder, o'er the crags that  
beetled under.

Said the lady, "They'll not leap the leap again!"  
Said the Lady Eleanora,  
Lovely Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

Came other knights anon to ride around the parapet  
For Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

Came other knights anon to ride around the parapet ;  
Till six and thirty corses of both mangled men and  
horses

Had been sacrificèd victims at the fane  
Of the Lady Eleanora,  
Stately Lady Eleanora von Alleyne !

That woeful year was by, and Ritter none came after-  
wards

To Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

That woeful year was by, and Ritter none came after-  
wards ;

The castle's lonely basscourt looked a wild o'er-grown-  
with-grass court ;

'Twas abandoned by the Ritters and their train  
To the Lady Eleanora,  
Haughty Lady Eleanora von Alleyne !

She clomb the silent wall, she gazed around her sovran-  
like,

The Lady Eleanora von Alleyne !

She clomb the silent wall, she gazed around her sovran-like.

“ And wherefore have departed all the brave, the lion-hearted,

Who have left me here to play the castellaine ? ”

Said the Lady Eleanora,

Said the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

“ And is it fled for aye, the palmy time of chivalry ? ”

Cried Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

“ And is it fled for aye, the palmy time of chivalry ?

Shame light upon the cravens ! May their corpses  
gorge the ravens,

Since they tremble thus to wear a woman’s chain,”

Said the Lady Eleanora,

Said the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

The story reached, at Gratz, the gallant Margrave  
Gondibert

Of Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

The story reached, at Gratz, the gallant Margrave  
Gondibert.

Quoth he : “ I trow the woman must be more or less  
than human ;

She is worth a little peaceable campaign,

Is the Lady Eleanora,

Is the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne ! ”

He trained a horse to pace round narrow stones laid  
merlon-wise,

For Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

He trained a horse to pace round narrow stones laid  
merlon-wise.

“ Good gray ! do thou thy duty ; and this rocky-  
bosomed beauty

Shall be taught that all the vauntings are in vain  
Of the Lady Eleanora,  
Of the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.”

He left his castle-halls, he came to Lady Eleanor’s,  
The Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

He left his castle-halls, he came to Lady Eleanor’s.

“ O lady best and fairest, here am I ! and, if thou  
carest,

I will gallop round the parapet amain,  
Noble Lady Eleanora,  
Noble Lady Eleanora von Alleyne ! ”

She saw him spring to horse, that gallant Margrave  
Gondibert,

The Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

She saw him spring to horse, that gallant Margrave  
Gondibert.

“ O bitter, bitter sorrow ! I shall weep for this  
to-morrow ;

It were better that in battle he were slain,”

Said the Lady Eleanora,

Said the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

Then rode he round and round the battlemented  
parapet,

For Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

Then rode he round and round the battlemented  
parapet :

The lady wept and trembled, and her paly face  
resembled,

As she looked away, a lily wet with rain ;

Hapless Lady Eleanora,

Hapless Lady Eleanora von Alleyne !

So rode he round and round the battlemented parapet,  
For Lady Eleanora von Alleyne ;

So rode he round and round the battlemented parapet.

“ Accursed be my ambition ! He but rideth to perdi-  
tion,

He but rideth to perdition without rein ! ”

Wept the Lady Eleanora,

Wept the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

Yet rode he round and round the battlemented parapet,  
For Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

Yet rode he round and round the battlemented parapet.

Meanwhile her terror shook her, yea, her breath well  
nigh forsook her ;

Fire was burning in the bosom and the brain

Of the Lady Eleanora,

Of the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne !

Then rode he round and off the battlemented parapet,  
To Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

Then rode he round and off the battlemented parapet !

“ Now blest be God for ever ! This is marvellous !

I never

Cherished hope of laying eyes on thee again ! ”  
Cried the Lady Eleanora,  
Joyous Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

“ The man of men thou art, for thou hast fairly conquered me,  
The Lady Eleanora von Alleyne !  
The man of men thou art, for thou hast fairly conquered me :  
I greet thee as my lover, and, ere many days be over,  
Thou shalt wed me and be lord of my domain ! ”  
Said the Lady Eleanora,  
Said the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

Then bowed the graceful knight, the gallant Margrave Gondibert,  
To Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.  
Then bowed that graceful knight, the gallant Margrave Gondibert,  
And thus he answered coldly : “ There be many who as boldly  
Will adventure an achievement they disdain  
For the Lady Eleanora,  
For the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

Mayest bide until they come, O stately Lady Eleanor !  
O Lady Eleanora von Alleyne !  
Mayest bide until they come, O stately Lady Eleanor !



And thou and they may marry ; but, for me, I must  
not tarry :

I have won a wife already out of Spain,  
Virgin Lady Eleanora,  
Virgin Lady Eleanora von Alleyne ! ”

Thereon he rode away, the gallant Margrave Gondi-  
bert,

From Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

Thereon he rode away, the gallant Margrave Gondi-  
bert,

And long in shame and anguish did that haughty lady  
languish,

Did she languish without pity for her pain,

She, the Lady Eleanora,

She, the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne !

And year went after year, and still in barren maiden-  
hood

Lived Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

And wrinkled eld crept on, and still her lot was  
maidenhood.

And, woe ! her end was tragic : she was changed, at  
length, by magic,

To an ugly wooden image, they maintain !

She, the Lady Eleanora,

She, the Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

And now, before the gate, in sight of all, transmog-  
rified,

Stands Lady Eleanora von Alleyne.

Before her castle-gate, in sight of all, transmogrified !

And he that won't salute her must be fined in foam-  
ing pewter,  
If a boor; but, if a burgher, in champagne,  
For the Lady Eleanora,  
Wooden Lady Eleanora von Alleyne!

### MY HOME (26)

(CONRAD WETZEL)

Morn and eve a star invites me,  
One imploring silver star,  
Woos me, calls me, lures me, lights me  
To the desert deeps afar,  
To a lovely orient land,  
Where the sun at morning early  
Rises fresh, and young, and glowing;  
Where the air is light and bland,  
And the falling raindrops pearly:  
Therefore am I going, going  
Home to this my lovely land,  
Where the sun at morning early  
Rises fresh, and young, and glowing;  
Where the airs are light and bland,  
And the rain is warm and pearly:  
All unheeding, all unknowing,  
I am speeding, I am going,  
Going home to my, to my land,  
To my only lonely island  
In the desert deeps afar;  
Yet unknowing, and undreaming

Why I go, or how, or whither,  
Save that one imploring star,  
Ever-burning, ever-beaming,  
Woos me, lures me, lights me thither.

## THE FAIRIES' PASSAGE (27)

(KOPISCH)

Tap, tap, rap, rap! "Get up, gaffer Ferryman."  
"Eh! Who is there?" The clock strikes three.  
"Get up, do, gaffer! You are the very man  
We have been long, long, longing to see."  
The ferryman rises, growling and grumbling,  
And goes fum-fumbling, and stumbling, and tumbling  
Over the wares on his way to the door.  
But he sees no more  
Than he saw before,  
Till a voice is heard: "O Ferryman dear!  
Here we are waiting, all of us, here.  
We are a wee, wee colony, we;  
Some two hundred in all, or three.  
Ferry us over the river Lee  
Ere dawn of day,  
And we will pay  
The most we may  
In our own wee way!"

"Who are you? Whence came you?  
What place are you going to?"

"Oh, we have dwelt over-long in this land :  
The people get cross, and are growing so knowing,  
too !

Nothing at all but they now understand.  
We are daily vanishing under the thunder  
Of some huge engine or iron wonder ;  
That iron, ah ! it has entered our souls."

"Your souls ? O gholes,  
You queer little drolls,  
Do you mean —— ?" "Good gaffer, do aid us  
with speed,

For our time, like our stature, is short indeed !  
And a very long way we have to go :  
Eight or ten thousand miles or so,  
Hither and thither, and to and fro,  
With our pots and pans  
And little gold cans ;  
But our light caravans  
Run swifter than man's."

"Well, well, you may come," said the ferryman  
affably :

"Patrick, turn out, and get ready the barge."

Then again to the little folk : "Tho' you seem  
laughably

Small, I don't mind, if your coppers be large."

Oh, dear ! what a rushing, what pushing, what  
crushing,

(The watermen making vain efforts at hushing  
The hubbub the while,) there followed these words !  
What clapping of boards,  
What strapping of cords,

What stowing away of children and wives,  
And platters, and mugs, and spoons, and knives !  
Till all had safely got into the boat,  
And the ferryman, clad in his tip-top coat,  
And his wee little fairies were safely afloat.  
Then ding, ding, ding,  
And kling, kling, kling,  
How the coppers did ring  
In the tin pitcherling !

Off, then, went the boat, at first very pleasantly,  
Smoothly, and so forth ; but after a while  
It swayed and it swagged this and that way, and  
                  presently  
Chest after chest, and pile after pile,  
Of the little folk's goods began tossing and rolling,  
And pitching like fun, beyond fairy controlling.  
O Mab ! if the hubbub were great before,  
It was now some two or three million times more.  
Crash ! went the wee crocks and the clocks ; and the  
                  locks  
Of each little wee box were stove in by hard knocks ;  
And then there were oaths, and prayers, and cries :  
" Take care ! " — " See there ! " — " Oh, dear, my  
                  eyes ! "  
" I am killed ! " — " I am drowned ! " — with groans  
                  and sighs,  
Till to land they drew.  
" Yeo-ho ! Pull to !  
Tiller-rope, thro' and thro' ! "  
And all's right anew.

“Now jump upon shore, ye queer little oddities.  
(Eh, what is this? . . . Where are they, at all?  
Where are they, and where are their tiny commodi-  
ties?

Well, as I live!” . . .) He looks blank as a wall,  
Poor ferryman! Round him and round him he  
gazes,

But only gets deeplier lost in the mazes  
Of utter bewilderment. All, all are gone,  
And he stands alone,

Like a statue of stone,  
In a doldrum of wonder. He turns to steer,  
And a tinkling laugh salutes his ear,  
With other odd sounds: “Ha, ha, ha, ha!  
Fol lol! zidzizzle! quee quee! bah! bah!  
Fizzigigiggidy! pshee! sha sha!”

“O ye thieves, ye thieves, ye rascally thieves!”  
The good man cries. He turns to his pitcher,  
And there, alas, to his horror perceives  
That the little folk’s mode of making him richer  
Has been to pay him with withered leaves!

## THE LAST WORDS OF AL-HASSAN (28)

(FRIEDRICH AUGUST VON HEYDEN)

Farewell for ever to all I love,  
To river and rock, farewell;  
To Zoumlah’s gloomful cypress-grove,  
And Shaarmal’s tulipy dell!

To Deenween-Kullaha's light blue bay,  
And Oreb's lonely strand !  
My race is run ; I am called away :  
I go to the lampless land.  
'Llah Hu !  
I am called away from the light of day  
To my tent in the dark dark land ;

I have seen the standard of Ali stained  
With the blood of the brave and free,  
And the Kaaba's venerable stone profaned  
By the truculent Wahabee.  
O Allah, for the light of another sun,  
With my Bazra sword in hand !  
But I rave in vain ; my course is run :  
I go to the lampless land.  
'Llah Hu !  
My course is run, my goal is won,  
I go to the dark dark land !

Yet, why should I live a day, an hour ?  
The friends I valued lie low ;  
My sisters dance in the halls of the Giaour,  
My brethren fight for the foe.  
None stood by the banner this arm unfurled  
Save Kharada's mountain-band !  
'Tis well that I leave so base a world,  
Tho' to dwell in the lampless land.  
'Llah Hu !  
'Tis well that I leave so false a world,  
Tho' to dwell in the dark dark land !

Even she, my loved and lost Ameen,  
The moon-white pearl of my soul,  
Could pawn her peace for the show and sheen  
Of silken Istambol.

How little did I bode what a year would see  
When we parted at Sarmarcand;  
My bride in the harem of the Osmanlee,  
Myself in the lampless land.

'Llah Hu!

My bride in the harem of the Osmanlee,  
Myself in the dark dark land!

We weep for the noble who perish young,  
Like flowers before their bloom;  
The great-souled few, who, unseen and unsung,  
Go down to the charnel's gloom;  
But, written on the brow of each, if man  
Could read it and understand,  
Is the changeless decree of Heaven's divan:  
We are born for the lampless land!

'Llah Hu!

By the dread firman of Heaven's divan,  
All are born for the dark dark land!

The wasted moon has a marvellous look  
Amiddle of the starry hordes;  
The heavens, too, shine like a mystic book  
All bright with burning words.  
The mists of the dawn begin to dislimn  
Zahara's castles of sand.  
Farewell! farewell! Mine eyes feel dim:  
They turn to the lampless land.



'Llah Hu !

My heart is weary, mine eyes are dim,  
I would rest in the dark dark land !

## AND THEN NO MORE

(RÜCKERT)

I saw her once, one little while, and then no more :  
'Twas Eden's light on earth awhile, and then no more.  
Amid the throng, she passed along the meadow-floor :  
Spring seemed to smile on earth awhile, and then no  
more.

But whence she came, which way she went, what  
garb she wore,  
I noted not ; I gazed awhile, and then no more.

I saw her once, one little while, and then no more :  
'Twas Paradise on earth awhile, and then no more :  
Ah ! what avail my vigils pale, my magic lore ?  
She shone before mine eyes awhile, and then no more.  
The shallop of my peace is wrecked on Beauty's shore ;  
Near Hope's fair isle it rode awhile, and then no more !

I saw her once, one little while, and then no more :  
Earth looked like Heaven a little while, and then no  
more.

Her presence thrilled and lightened to its inner core,  
My desert breast, a little while, and then no more.  
So may, perchance, a meteor glance at midnight  
o'er

Some ruined pile a little while, and then no more.

I saw her once, one little while, and then no more.  
The earth was Peri-land awhile, and then no more.  
O might I see but once again, as once before,  
Through chance or wile, that shape awhile, and then  
no more !

Death soon would heal my griefs : this heart, now sad  
and sore,

Would beat anew a little while, and then no more !

## MOTHER AND SON

(HANDRIC TZVELK)

“ Hie to the wood, and seek thy sister,  
Son for ever gay !  
Hie to the wood, and tell thy sister  
She bring home her mother’s breast-knot,  
Son for ever gay.”

“ Wandering in the wood I missed her,  
Golden mother gray !  
In the wood I lost and missed her.  
Where she bides I guess and guess not,  
Golden mother gray.”

“ Fare to the mill and seek thy brother,  
Son for ever gay !  
Fetch him home to his mourning mother.  
See, the eve gets dark and darker,  
Son for ever gay.”

“Mother now he hath found another,  
Golden mother gray,  
Even the holy Virgin Mother!  
Stark as death he lies; none starker,  
Golden mother gray.”

“Hence, and find thy staffless father,  
Son for ever gay!  
Green herbs went he forth to gather  
Mid the dews of morning early,  
Son for ever gay.”

“Vainly might I seek my father,  
Golden mother gray!  
Heavenly herbs he now doth gather  
Where the dews shine bright and pearly,  
Golden mother gray.”

“When shall I again behold them,  
Son for ever gay?  
When again shall I behold them,  
Ah, when fold them to my bosom,  
Son for ever gay?”

“To thy bosom shall thou fold them,  
Golden mother gray!  
Thou shalt once again behold them  
When the blighted tree shall blossom,  
Golden mother gray.”

“When shall blossom tree that’s blighted,  
Son for ever gay?  
When can blossom tree that’s blighted?

Blighted tree may naught and none raise,  
Son for ever gay."

"When the morn shall first be lighted,  
Golden mother gray!  
When the morn shall first be lighted  
In the west, by western sun-rays,  
Golden mother gray."

"When shall dawn that wondrous morning,  
Son for ever gay?  
When shall break that wondrous morning?  
When be seen the western sunrise,  
Son for ever gay?"

"When the Archangel's trump gives warning,  
Golden mother gray!  
When the Judgment peal gives warning;  
When the dead shall every one rise,  
Golden mother gray."

## TWO SONNETS FROM VINCENZO DA FILICAJA

### I

Where is thine arm, Italia? why shouldst thou  
Fight with the stranger's? Fierce alike to me  
Seem thy defender and thine enemy:  
Both were thy vassals once, tho' victors now. (29)  
Thus dost thou guard the wreath that bound thy brow,  
The wreck of perished empire? When to thee  
Virtue and valor pledged their fealty

Was this thy glorious promise, this thy vow?  
Go, then: reject thine ancient worth, and wed  
Degenerate sloth; mid blood, and groans, and cries,  
Sleep on, all heedless of the loud alarms,  
Sleep, vile adulteress! From thy guilty bed  
Too soon the avenging sword shall bid thee rise,  
Or pierce thee, slumbering in thy minion's arms.

## II

Here on the spot where stately cities rose,  
No stone is left, to mark in letters rude  
Where earth did her tremendous jaws uncloze,  
Where Syracuse, or where Catania stood.  
Along the silent margin of the flood  
I seek, but cannot find ye! Naught appears  
Save the deep-settled gloom of solitude,  
That checks my step, and fills mine eyes with tears.

O Thou whose mighty arm the blow hath dealt,  
Whose justice gave the judgment! shall not I  
Adore that power which I have seen and felt?  
Rise from the depths of darkness where ye lie,  
Ye ghosts of buried cities; rise, and be  
A sad memorial to futurity.

## THE MARINER'S BRIDE

(LUIS DE CAMOENS)

Look, mother! the mariner's rowing  
His galley adown the tide;  
I'll go where the mariner's going,  
And be the mariner's bride!

I saw him one day through the wicket,  
I opened the gate and we met ;  
As a bird in the fowler's net,  
Was I caught in my own green thicket.  
O mother, my tears are flowing,  
I've lost my maidenly pride :  
I'll go if the mariner's going,  
And be the mariner's bride !

This Love the tyrant evinces,  
Alas ! an omnipotent might ;  
He darkens the mind like night,  
He treads on the necks of princes !  
O mother, my bosom is glowing !  
I'll go, whatever betide,  
I'll go where the mariner's going,  
And be the mariner's bride.

Yes, mother, the spoiler has reft me  
Of reason and self-control ;  
Gone, gone is my wretched soul,  
And only my body is left me.  
The winds, O mother ! are blowing,  
The ocean is bright and wide :  
I'll go where the mariner's going,  
And be the mariner's bride.

TO DON RODRIGO AFTER HIS FINAL  
DEFEAT

(FROM THE ROMANCERO GENERAL)

O turn those eyes, unhappy King,  
O turn those eyes on ruined Spain!  
Behold that glory vanishing  
That shone so long undimmed by stain:  
See how her heroes bleed in vain;  
See how the conquering Arabs trample  
Her golden fields, her vineyards ample;  
See this, and curse thy reckless reign!  
(Alas, most wretched land,  
Lost for La Cava's lips and hand!)

The memories of a thousand years,  
The lustre of the Gothic name,  
So wronged, that never blood nor tears  
Can wipe away the blighting shame;  
And this, to feed thy guilty flame!  
O King, thy woes are but beginning:  
O King, thou lovest by thy sinning  
Thy soul and body, crown and fame.  
(Alas, most wretched land,  
Lost for La Cava's lips and hand!)

## DIES IRAE (30)

The day of wrath, the day of woe  
Shall lay the world in ashes low :  
As David and the Seers foreshow.

What awe must e'en archangels feel  
When earth shall make her dread appeal  
To God, her Judge for woe or weal !

The marvellous trumpet's mighty tone  
Shall thrill the graves from zone to zone,  
And wake the dead to face the Throne.

The whole dark ocean of the Past  
Shall answer to that earthquake blast,  
Till Death and Nature stand aghast.

The accusing record lies unrolled :  
And all man thought and wrought of old,  
And hidden sins and shames, are told.

Woe ! when the rended veil shall fall !  
When Truth, in Heaven's own judgment-hall,  
Lays bare the shrinking souls of all.

Where then can crime dare turn in trust ?  
What stay remains for sinful dust,  
When fear shall prostrate even the just ?



Ah, great good God so long withstood !  
I clasp Thy Son's redeeming rood :  
My fount of hope is Jesus' blood.

On that dread day, just Judge of men,  
Let me not wake for Hell's dark den ;  
But be, O God ! my Saviour then.



## Original Poems

- I. Those purporting to be Translations  
from the Oriental Languages



## THE KARAMANIAN EXILE (31)

I see thee ever in my dreams,  
Karaman !  
Thy hundred hills, thy thousand streams,  
Karaman, O Karaman !  
As when thy gold-bright morning gleams,  
As when the deepening sunset seams  
With lines of light thy hills and streams,  
Karaman !  
So thou loomest on my dreams,  
Karaman !  
On all my dreams, my homesick dreams,  
Karaman, O Karaman !

The hot bright plains, the sun, the skies,  
Karaman !  
Seem death-black marble to mine eyes,  
Karaman, O Karaman !  
I turn from summer's blooms and dyes ;  
Yet in my dreams thou dost arise  
In welcome glory to mine eyes,  
Karaman !  
In thee my life of life yet lies,  
Karaman !  
Thou still art holy in mine eyes,  
Karaman, O Karaman !

Ere my fighting years were come,  
Karaman !

Troops were few in Erzerome,  
Karaman, O Karaman !  
Their fiercest came from Erzerome,  
They came from Ukhbar's palace dome,  
They dragged me forth from thee, my home,  
Karaman !  
Thee, my own, my mountain home,  
Karaman !  
In life and death, my spirit's home,  
Karaman, O Karaman !

O none of all my sisters ten,  
Karaman !  
Loved like me my fellow-men,  
Karaman, O Karaman !  
I was mild as milk till then,  
I was soft as silk till then ;  
Now my breast is as a den,  
Karaman !  
Foul with blood and bones of men,  
Karaman !  
With blood and bones of slaughtered men,  
Karaman, O Karaman !

My boyhood's feelings newly born,  
Karaman !  
Withered like young flowers uptorn,  
Karaman, O Karaman !  
And in their stead sprang weed and thorn ;  
What once I loved now moves my scorn ;  
My burning eyes are dried to horn,  
Karaman !

I hate the blessed light of morn,  
Karaman !  
It maddens me, the face of morn,  
Karaman, O Karaman !

The Spahi wears a tyrant's chains,  
Karaman !  
But bondage worse than this remains,  
Karaman, O Karaman !  
His heart is black with million stains :  
Thereon, as on Kaf's blasted plains,  
Shall nevermore fall dews and rains,  
Karaman !  
Save poison-dews and bloody rains,  
Karaman !  
Hell's poison-dews and bloody rains,  
Karaman, O Karaman !

But life at worst must end ere long,  
Karaman !  
Azrael <sup>1</sup> avengeth every wrong,  
Karaman, O Karaman !  
Of late my thoughts rove more among  
Thy fields ; o'ershadowing fancies throng  
My mind, and texts of bodeful song,  
Karaman !  
Azrael is terrible and strong,  
Karaman !  
His lightning sword smites all ere long,  
Karaman, O Karaman !

<sup>1</sup> The angel of death.

There's care to-night in Ukhbar's halls,  
Karaman !  
There's hope, too, for his trodden thralls,  
Karaman, O Karaman !  
What lights flash red along yon walls ?  
Hark ! hark ! the muster-trumpet calls !  
I see the sheen of spears and shawls,  
Karaman !  
The foe ! the foe ! — they scale the walls,  
Karaman !  
To-night Muràd or Ukhbar falls,  
Karaman, O Karaman !

## THE WAIL AND WARNING OF THE THREE KHALANDEERS

### THE WAIL

*La' laba, il Allah !*<sup>1</sup>

Here we meet, we three, at length,  
Amrah, Osman, Perizad :  
Shorn of all our grace and strength,  
Poor, and old, and very sad.  
We have lived, but live no more ;  
Life has lost its gloss for us,  
Since the days we spent of yore  
Boating down the Bosphorus !  
*La' laba, il Allah !*

<sup>1</sup> God alone is all-merciful !



The Bosphorus, the Bosphorus!  
Old time brought home no loss for us;  
We felt full of health and heart  
Upon the foamy Bosphorus!

*La' laha, il Allah!*

Days indeed! A shepherd's tent  
Served us then for house and fold;  
All to whom we gave or lent,  
Paid us back a thousand fold.  
Troublous years, by myriads wailed,  
Rarely had a cross for us,  
Never, when we gaily sailed  
Singing down the Bosphorus.

*La' laha, il Allah!*

The Bosphorus, the Bosphorus!  
There never came a cross for us,  
While we daily, gaily sailed  
Adown the meadowy Bosphorus.

*La' laha, il Allah!*

Blithe as birds we flew along,  
Laughed and quaffed and stared about;  
Wine and roses, mirth and song,  
Were what most we cared about.  
Fame we left for quacks to seek,  
Gold was dust and dross for us,  
While we lived from week to week  
Boating down the Bosphorus.

*La' laha, il Allah!*

The Bosphorus, the Bosphorus!  
And gold was dust and dross for us,

While we lived from week to week  
Boating down the Bosphorus.

*La' laba, il Allah!*

Friends we were, and would have shared  
Purses, had we twenty full.

If we spent, or if we spared,  
Still our funds were plentiful.  
Save the hours we passed apart,  
Time brought home no loss for us;  
We felt full of hope and heart  
While we clove the Bosphorus.

*La' laba, il Allah!*

The Bosphorus, the Bosphorus!  
For life has lost its gloss for us  
Since the days we spent of yore  
Upon the pleasant Bosphorus!

*La' laba, il Allah!*

Ah! for youth's delirious hours,  
Man pays well in after-days,  
When quenched hopes and palsied powers  
Mock his love-and-laughter days.  
Thorns and thistles on our path  
Took the place of moss for us,  
Till false fortune's tempest-wrath  
Drove us from the Bosphorus.

*La' laba, il Allah!*

The Bosphorus, the Bosphorus!  
When thorns took place of moss for us,  
Gone was all! Our hearts were graves  
Deep, deeper than the Bosphorus.

*La' laba, il Allah!*

Gone is all! In one abyss  
Lie health, youth, and merriment!  
All we've learned amounts to this:  
Life's a sad experiment!  
What it is we trebly feel  
Pondering what it was for us,  
When our shallop's bounding keel  
Clove the joyous Bosphorus.

*La' laba, il Allah!*

The Bosphorus, the Bosphorus!  
We wail for what life was for us,  
When our shallop's bounding keel  
Clove the joyous Bosphorus!

#### THE WARNING

*La' laba, il Allah!*

Pleasure tempts, yet man has none  
Save himself t' accuse, if her  
Temptings prove, when all is done,  
Lures hung out by Lucifer.  
Guard your fire in youth, O friends!  
Manhood's is but phosphorus,  
And bad luck attends and ends  
Boatings down the Bosphorus!

*La' laba, il Allah!*

The Bosphorus, the Bosphorus!  
Youth's fire soon wanes to phosphorus,  
And slight luck or grace attends  
Your boaters down the Bosphorus!

RELIC OF PRINCE BAYAZEED<sup>1</sup>

Slow thro' my bosom's veins their last cold blood is  
    flowing ;  
Above my heart even now I feel the rank grass  
    growing. (32)  
Hence to the land of naught the caravan is starting ;  
Its bell already tolls the signal for departing.  
Rejoice, my soul, poor bird ! thou art at last delivered :  
Thy cage is crumbling fast, the bars will soon be  
    shivered.  
Farewell this troubled world, where sin and crime  
    run riot !  
For Shahi henceforth rests in God's own house of  
    quiet.

## ADVICE AGAINST TRAVEL (33)

Traverse not the globe for lore ! The sternest  
But the surest teacher is the heart ;  
Studying that and that alone, thou learnest  
Best and soonest whence and what thou art.

Time, not travel, 'tis which gives us ready  
Speech, experience, prudence, tact, and wit :  
Far more light the lamp that bideth steady  
Than the wandering lantern doth emit.

<sup>1</sup> Prince Bayazeed, son of Suleiman, was put to death in 1561 by Shah of Persia. This poem is said to have been written the night of his execution.

Moor, Chinese, Egyptian, Russian, Roman,  
Tread one common down-hill path of doom;  
Everywhere the names are man and woman,  
Everywhere the old sad sins find room.

Evil angels tempt us in all places.  
What but sands or snows hath earth to give?  
Dream not, friend, of deserts and oases!  
But look inwards, and begin to live.

### ADAM'S OATH

Medreamt I was in Paradise, and there, a-drinking  
wine,

I saw our Father Adam, with his flowing golden hair.  
"O Father!" was my greeting, "my heart is faint  
with care:

Tell me, tell me, are the Mooslemin of Aalya sons  
of thine?"

But the noble senior frowned, and his wavy golden hair  
Grew black as clouds at evening, when thunder  
thrills the air.

"Nay, the Mooslemin of Aalya I disown for sons of  
mine!"

Then methought I wept, and beat my breast, and  
begged of him a sign.

"O swear it, Father Adam!" So, dilating out, he  
sware:

"If the Mooslemin of Aalyastan be kith or kin of  
mine,

Let dust for ever darken the glory of my hair!"

## NIGHT IS NEARING

*Allah Akbar !*

All things vanish after brief careering :  
Down one gulf life's myriad barks are steering.  
Headlong mortal ! hast thou ears for hearing ?  
Pause, be wise : the night, thy night, is nearing ;  
Night is nearing !

*Allah Akbar !*

Towards the darkness whence no ray is peering,  
Towards the void from which no voice comes cheer-  
ing,  
Move the countless doomed, none volunteering,  
While the winds rise, and the night is nearing,  
Night is nearing !

*Allah Akbar !*

See the palace-dome its pride uprearing  
One fleet hour, then darkly disappearing !  
So must all of lofty or endearing  
Fade, fail, fall : to all the night is nearing,  
Night is nearing !

*Allah Akbar !*

Then, since naught abides, but all is veering,  
Flee a world which sin is hourly searing :  
Only so mayst front thy fate unfearing,  
When life wanes, and death, like night, is nearing.  
Night is nearing !

## TO MIHRI

My starlight, my moonlight, my midnight, my noon-  
light,

Unveil not, unveil not ! or millions must pine.

Ah, didst thou lay bare

Those dark tresses of thine,

Even night would seem bright

To the hue of thy hair, which is black as despair.

My starlight, my moonlight, my midnight, my noon-  
light,

Unveil not, unveil not ! or millions must pine.

Ah, didst thou disclose

Those bright features of thine,

The Red Vale<sup>1</sup> would look pale

By thy cheek which so glows that it shames the rich  
rose.

My starlight, my moonlight, my midnight, my noon-  
light,

Unveil not, unveil not ! or millions must pine.

Ah, didst thou lay bare

That white bosom of thine,

The bright sun would grow dim

Nigh a rival so rare and so radiantly fair.

My starlight, my moonlight, my midnight, my noon-  
light,

Unveil not, unveil not !

<sup>1</sup> Kuzzil Ragh, the Red Valley : in all probability the Valley of Roses at Edreen.

## THE CITY OF TRUTH

Once I saw a City wide and fair  
And the pathways were enamelled all :  
He shall never die who enters there !  
There he drinks of life's elixirs all.  
All the gates thereof are thirty-two,  
Wreathèd gates, with stately pillars tall ;  
All the terraces of gold-bright hue ;  
Rich the vineyards and the gardens all.  
Silver fountain-waters, bright and still,  
Into alabaster basins fall ;  
Musk-scents load the airlets from the hill ;  
There the garden-bowers are roses all.  
There sweet nightingales, like living flutes,  
Bind the senses and the soul in thrall ;  
Then the trees droop under brilliant fruits,  
Citrons, dates, pomegranates, peaches all.  
This fair City is unseen : it lies  
Isolated from one earthly ball,  
Ranking higher far than Paradise :  
'Tis the goal the angels covet all,  
'Tis the City of the Truth alone,  
And of Truth's inestimable All.  
They whom Allah from the first hath known,  
Known and chosen, here are gathered all.  
Some drink precious wine, some selsibil<sup>1</sup> ;  
Some in bower, some in palace hall ;  
All are passed the fear of ail and ill :  
Ecstasy-inebriated all !

<sup>1</sup> The waters of life.



Strangers they to passion and to sin ;  
Terrors shall no more their hours appal ;  
Neither storms without, nor strifes within.  
They are tranquil, they are happy, all.  
Swords are not for these : their days are free,  
Free from bitter feud and angry brawl,  
Free from wrangling speech and sophistry ;  
For the Holy Spirit dwells with all.  
Loving are their words, and honey-sweet,  
Unadulterate with envy's gall ;  
All their lives are peace : and when they meet,  
Oh, they meet indeed as brethren all !  
Here are found no lower, higher ranks :  
Syrian, Turk, Egyptian, Grecian, Gaul,  
Swart and fair, Arabians, Persians, Franks,  
Here are linked in common union all.  
And as Truth is one, as God is one,  
So these denizens, both great and small,  
Are combined as one ; and therefore none  
Seeks to be the Shah, or slave, of all.  
Yet our Prophet never tutored them ;  
Neither needed they Mohammed's call !  
In the Truth they saw a lovelier gem  
Shining through the world alike for all,<sup>1</sup>  
So their sect is mankind ; and their creed  
Thus is worded : God is all in all !  
And His will and wish, where'er they lead  
Are their bliss, their glory, and their all.

<sup>1</sup> The author, Mohammed Niazi VI, lies buried in the island of Lemnos, to which he was banished for not speaking the doctrines of Islam strictly by the card. The peculiar character of his heterodoxy may be inferred from these lines.

Never drank they wine from golden bowls,  
Never wore the diamond-spangled shawl :  
Thus the devil could not spy these souls  
Who were shrouded in seclusion all.  
Early were they rescued from the abyss  
Of the snares and spells that oft enthrall  
Man's affections ; and the Bird of bliss  
Here sits perched upon the heads of all.  
They, enraptured, as the holy lyre  
Sweetly vibrates at their festival,  
Dread not woman, earthquake, storm, nor fire ;  
Plagues and genii are excluded all.  
This securest house, this dome where centre  
All delights, where perils ne'er befall  
Soul of guest, the houris shall not enter :  
Angels form the only tenants all.  
Many lamps, refulgent from afar,  
Lured them towards the City's lofty wall,  
Yet was each a pure celestial star,  
And the hand of God had kindled all.  
Friend, wouldst thou too gain this glorious goal  
When the mourners bear thy funeral pall,  
Now by prayer and fasting cleanse thy soul !  
Slay thy vanities and vices all.  
Look to God ! and then, though natural dusk  
O'er thy sunless evening sky must fall,  
Then, though camphor strew thy head for musk,  
He will beautify and brighten all !  
We are voyagers on ocean dark,  
Yet can never billow, bolt, nor squall,  
Damage nor dismay our fragile bark,  
If the Lord but pilot us through all !

Heavenly light will bright our path at length,  
And that flood shine like another Dall<sup>1</sup>:  
God is each one's hope and tower of strength,  
And the hope and tower of strength of all.  
O stand up ! The serpent and his mates,  
But not man, were born to creep and crawl ;  
Reptile enters not the holy gates.  
Knowst thou not the saints look heavenward all ?  
How canst grovel in the mire, content  
As the brute which wallows in the stall ?  
Dost thou then imagine earth was meant  
As a burial-den for soul and all ?  
Harken to Niazi's warning song !  
This is not a poet's idle scrawl :  
Thou must one day travel too along  
With the last great caravan of all.  
May thy road be smooth, and mayst thou see  
All the star-lamps on the City's wall  
Also beaconing and beckoning thee !  
This is his one prayer for thee and all.

### AN EPITAPH

Rests within this lonely mausoleum  
After life's distraction and fatigue,  
Leeh Rewaan, a man to hear and see whom  
Monks and princes journeyed many a league.

Yet not Leeh Rewaan himself ; but rather  
Leeh Rewaan's worn-out and cast-off dress :

<sup>1</sup> Lake of Cashmere.

He, the man, dwells with his Heavenly Father  
In a land of light and loveliness.

Shah of song he was ; and fond of laughter,  
Sweet sharaab,<sup>1</sup> and silver-spangled shawls.  
Stranger, mayst thou quaff with him hereafter  
Life's red wine in Eden's palace-halls !

### GOOD COUNSEL

Tutor not thyself in science : go to masters for per-  
fection,  
Also, speak thy thoughts aloud :  
Whoso in the glass beholdeth naught besides his own  
reflection  
Bides both ignorant and proud.  
Study not in one art only : bee-like, rather, at a hundred  
Sources gather honeyed lore ;  
Thou wert else, that helpless bird which, when his  
nest has once been plundered,  
Ne'er can build another more. (34)

### A GHAZEL

Wonder not thou that the Sultan on earth is alone !  
So is the sun that illumines the heavens, alone ;  
So, tho' a forest of flowers have budded and blown,  
Always the garden sultana, the rose, is alone :  
The praise be to God !

<sup>1</sup> Shrub, or sherbet.

What is there great among mankind but standeth  
alone?

Lift up the eyes of thy soul to the Ottoman throne,  
Turn to the Kaaba,<sup>1</sup> and look at its wonderful Stone;  
These, like the rose and the Sultan, are also alone:  
The praise be to God!

Wonder not thou that the Sultan on earth is alone:  
So is the moon in the hall of the planets alone;  
So tho' a hundred rare instruments mingle in tone,  
Always the glittering crescent-and-bells is alone:  
The praise be to God!

What can the poet accomplish unless when alone,  
What, tho' in harness with one who is bone of his  
bone?

Never feels Lamyeh himself that his soul is his own,  
Save when he wanders thro' Brusa by moonlight  
alone:

The praise be to God!

Wonder not, then, that the Sultan on earth is alone!  
So, on the Balkans, the cedar ariseth alone;  
So, tho' a many rich brilliants emblazon thy zone,  
Always the emerald, monarch of gems, is alone:  
The praise be to God!

So stands the dome of Sophia for ever alone,  
Stands without sister since Ephesus' pride was o'er-  
thrown;

<sup>1</sup> The Holy House of Mecca.

Bagdad is fallen, and Balbec a ruin unknown,  
Leaving Stamboul and its mosque in their glory alone :  
The praise be to God !

Countless are Suleiman's beys, but himself is alone :  
Princes are slaves at his gate, yet he still is alone.  
So, altho' streams without number flow into the  
Done,<sup>1</sup>

Always that father of rivers himself is alone :  
The praise be to God ! (35)

### THE TIME OF THE ROSES

Morning is blushing; the gay nightingales  
Warble their exquisite song in the vales;  
Spring, like a spirit, floats everywhere,  
Shaking sweet spice-showers loose from her hair,  
Murmurs half-musical sounds from the stream,  
Breathes in the valley, and shines in the beam.  
In, in at the portal that youth uncloses !  
It hastes, it wastes, the time of the roses.

Meadows and gardens and sun-lighted glades,  
Palaces, terraces, grottoes, and shades  
Woo thee; a fairy bird sings in thine ear:  
*Come and be happy! An Eden is here.*  
Knowest thou whether for thee there be any  
Years in the future? Ah, think on how many  
A young heart under the mould reposes,  
Nor feels how wheels the time of the roses !

<sup>1</sup> Danube.

In the red light of the many-leaved rose  
Mahomet's wonderful mantle reglows;  
Gaudier far, but as blooming and tender,  
Tulips and martagons revel in splendor.  
Drink from the chalice of joy, ye who may!  
Youth is a flower of early decay,  
And pleasure a monarch that age deposes,  
When past, at last, the time of the roses.

See the young lilies, their scimitar-petals  
Glancing, like silver mid earthier metals:  
Dews of the brightest, in life-giving showers,  
Fall all the night on these luminous flowers:  
Each of them sparkles afar like a gem.  
Wouldst thou be smiling and happy like them?  
O follow all counsel that pleasure proposes!  
It dies, it flies, the time of the roses.

Pity the roses! Each rose is a maiden  
Pranked, and with jewels of dew overladen:  
Pity the maidens! The moon of their bloom  
Rises to set in the cells of the tomb.  
Life has its winter; when summer is gone,  
Maidens, like roses, lie stricken and wan.  
Tho' bright as the burning bush of Moses,  
Soon fades, fair maids, the time of your roses.

Lustre and odors, and blossoms and flowers,  
All that is richest in garden and bowers,  
Teach us morality, speak of mortality,  
Whisper that life is a sweet unreality.

Death is the end of that lustre, those odors:  
Brilliance and beauty are gloomy foreboders  
To him who knows what this world of woes is,  
And sees how flees the time of the roses!

Heed them not, hear them not! Morning is blushing,  
Perfumes are wandering, fountains are gushing.  
What tho' the rose, like a virgin forbidden,  
Long under leafy pavilion lay hidden?  
Now, far around as the vision can stretch,  
Wreaths for the pencil of angels to sketch,  
Festoon the tall hills that the landscape discloses.  
O sweet, tho' fleet, is the time of the roses!

Now the air, drunk from the breath of the flowers,  
Faints like a bride whom her bliss overpowers;  
Such and so rich is the fragrance that fills  
Ether and cloud, that its essence distils,  
As thro' thin lily-leaves, earthward again,  
Sprinkling with rose-water garden and plain.  
O joyously, after the winter closes,  
Returns and burns the time of the roses!

O for some magical vase to imprison  
All the sweet incense that yet has not risen,  
And the swift pearls that, radiant and rare,  
Glisten and drop thro' the hollows of air!  
Vain: they depart, both the beaming and fragrant;  
So, too, hope leaves us, and love proves a vagrant;  
Too soon their entrancing illusion closes:  
It cheats, it fleets, the time of the roses!



Tempest and thunder and war were abroad;  
Riot and turbulence triumphed unawed;  
Suleiman rose, and the thunders were hushed,  
Faction was prostrate, turbulence crushed.  
Once again peace in her gloriousness rallies;  
Once again shine the glad skies on our valleys,  
And sweetly anew the poet composes  
His lays in praise of the time of the roses!

I, too, Mesechi, already renowned,  
Centuries hence by my song shall be crowned;  
Far as the stars of the wide heaven shine,  
Men shall rejoice in this carol of mine.  
Lelia! thou art as a rose unto me:  
Think on the nightingale singing for thee!  
For he who on love like thine reposes  
Least heeds how speeds the time of the roses.

### THE TIME ERE THE ROSES WERE BLOWING<sup>1</sup>

Brilliantly sparkle, Mesechi, thy flowing  
Numbers, like streams, amid lilies upgrowing;  
Yet, wouldst thou mingle the sad and sublime,  
Sing, too, the time,  
Sing the young time ere the roses were blowing!

Then was the season when hope was yet glowing,  
Then the blithe year of the spring and the sowing,

<sup>1</sup> From the Persian of Zazem Zerbayeh, who died at Ispahan in 1541, in reply to Mesechi's *Time of the Roses*.

Then the soul dwelt in her own faëry clime ;  
Then was the time,  
Then the gay time ere the roses were blowing.

Soon, ah, too soon came the summer, bestowing  
Glory and light, but a light ever showing  
In the chill nearness, the autumn's gray rime :  
Gone was the time,  
Gone the fresh time ere the roses were blowing.

Life is at best but a coming and going,  
Now flitting past us on swift, now on slow wing ;  
Here fair with goodness, there gloomy with crime.  
O for the time,  
O for the time ere the roses were blowing !

Coldly, ah, coldly goes truth, overthrowing  
Fancy's bright palaces, coldly goes mowing  
Down the sweet blossoms of boyhood's young prime :  
Give us the time,  
Give us the time ere the roses were blowing !

I am Zerbayeh, the least of the knowing ;  
Thou art Meseehi, the golden and glowing.  
O when again thou wouldst dazzle in rhyme,  
Sing of the time,  
Sing of the time ere the roses were blowing !

TO AMINE, ON SEEING HER ABOUT  
TO VEIL HER MIRROR

Veil not thy mirror, sweet Amine,  
Till night shall also veil each star !  
Thou seest a twofold marvel there :  
The only face so fair as thine,  
The only eyes that, near or far,  
Can gaze on thine without despair.

THE HOWLING SONG OF AL MOHARA

My heart is as a house of groans  
From dusky eve to dawning gray ;  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
The glazed flesh on my staring bones  
Grows black and blacker with decay ;  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
Yet am I none whom death may slay :  
I am spared to suffer, and to warn,  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
My lashless eyes are parched to horn  
With weeping for my sin alway.  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
For blood, hot blood that no man sees,  
The blood of one I slew,  
Burns on my hands : I cry therefore  
All night long, on my knees,  
Evermore :  
Allah, Allah hu !

Because I slew him over wine,  
Because I struck him down at night,  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
Because he died and made no sign,  
His blood is always in my sight !  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
Because I raised mine arm to smite  
While the foul cup was at his lips ;  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
Because I wrought his soul's eclipse,  
He comes between me and the light.  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
His is the form my terror sees,  
The sinner that I slew ;  
My rending cry is still therefore  
All night long, on my knees,  
Evermore :  
Allah, Allah hu !

Under the all-just heaven's expanse  
There is for me no resting-spot ;  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
I dread man's revengeful countenance ;  
The smiles of woman win me not :  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
I wander among graves where rot  
The carcasses of leprous men,  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
I house me in the dragon's den  
Till evening darkens grove and grot.  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)

But bootless all ! Who penance drees,  
Must dree it his life through. (36)  
My heart-wrung cry is still therefore  
All night long, on my knees,  
Evermore :  
Allah, Allah hu !

The silks that swathe my hall divan  
Are damascened with moons of gold ;  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
Musk-roses from my gulistan  
Fill vases of Egyptian mould ;  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
The Koran's treasures lie unrolled  
Near where my radiant night-lamp burns ;  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
Around me, rows of silver urns  
Perfume the air with odors old.  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
But what avail these luxuries ?  
The blood of him I slew  
Burns red on all ; I cry therefore  
All night long, on my knees,  
Evermore :  
Allah, Allah hu !

Can sultans, can the guilty rich,  
Purchase with mines and thrones a draught,  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)  
From that Nutulian<sup>1</sup> fount of which  
The conscience-tortured whilom quaffed ?  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)

<sup>1</sup> Lethean.

Vain dream ! Power, glory, riches, craft,  
Prove magnets for the sword of wrath ;  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)

Thorn-plant men's last and lampless path  
And barb the slaying angel's shaft. (37)  
(*Allah, Allah hu !*)

Oh, the blood-guilty ever sees  
But sights that make him rue  
As I do now, and cry therefore,  
All night long, on my knees,  
Evermore :  
Allah, Allah hu !

## SAYINGS AND PROVERBS

### I

#### SAYING OF KEMALLEDIN KHOGENDI

The words of the wise and unknown, quoth Zehir,  
are buds in a garden,  
Which flower when summer is come, and are culled  
for the harem by girls ;  
Or drops of water, saith Saadi, which silently brighten  
and harden,  
Till Caliphs themselves exclaim : " They blind me,  
those dazzling pearls ! "

## II

SAYINGS OF DJELIM, FROM THE BOOK OF VIRTUE  
OF SCHINASI

I, too, was reared in Djelim's house, and thus his precepts run and are :  
When folly sells the wisdom's crown, 'tis idly gained  
and dearly bought ;  
Oh, foremost man of all his race, born under some  
diviner star  
Who, early trained, self-reined, self-chained, can  
practise all that Lokman<sup>1</sup> taught !  
The joys and cares of earth are snares : heed lest thy  
soul too late deplore  
The power of sin to wile and win her vision from  
the Eight and Four.<sup>2</sup>  
Lock up thyself within thyself ; distrust the stranger,  
and the fair ;  
(The fool is blown from whim to whim by every  
gust of passion's gales.)  
Bide where the lute and song are mute, and as thy  
soul would shun despair,  
Avert thine eye from woman's face when twilight  
falls, and she unveils.

<sup>1</sup> Lokman flourished about a thousand years before the Christian era. He is the greatest of the Oriental moralists ; even Mohammed speaks of him in the Koran with profound reverence. Lokman's wisdom, like Solomon's, is supposed to have been of divine origin. . . . The maxims of Lokman are ten thousand in number ; and any one of them, says an Arabian commentator, is of much greater value than the whole world.

<sup>2</sup> The Eight Signs that are to precede the Day of Doom, and the Four Final Things : Death, Judgment, Hell, Heaven.

Be circumspect, be watchman-like. Put pebbles in  
thy mouth each day :  
Pause long ere thou panegyryze; pause doubly long  
ere thou condemn.  
Thy thoughts are Tartars, vagabonds : imprison all  
thou canst not slay.  
Of many million drops of rain perchance but one  
turns out a gem.

## III

## A SAYING OF NEDSCHATI

The world is one vast caravanserai  
Where none may stay,  
But where each guest writes on the wall this word :  
*O Mighty Lord !*

## IV

## THREE PROVERBS

## I

Naught, I hear thee say,  
Can fill the greedy eye ;  
Yet a little clay  
Will fill it bye and bye.

## II

An hour of good, a day of ill :  
This is the lot of mourning man  
Who leaves the world whene'er he will,  
But goes to Heaven whene'er he can.



## III

The steed to the man who bestrides it newly,  
The sabre to him who best can wield it,  
The damsel to him who has wooed her truly,  
And the province to him who refuses to yield it.

LAMENT FROM THE FAREWELL-BOOK  
OF AHI

Like a cypress tree  
Mateless in a death-black valley,  
Where no lily springeth,  
Where no bulbul singeth,  
Whence gazelle is never seen to sally,  
Such am I, woe is me !  
Poor, sad, all unknown,  
Lone, lone, lone.

Like a wandering bee,  
Alien from his hive and fellows,  
Humming moanful ditties  
Far from men and cities,  
Roaming glades the autumn rarely mellows,  
Such am I, woe is me !  
Poor, sad, all unknown,  
Lone, lone, lone.

Like a bark at sea,  
All whose crew by night have perished  
Drifting on the ocean,  
Still with shoreward motion,

Tho' none live by whom hope's throb is cherished,  
Such am I, woe is me !  
Poor, sad, all unknown,  
Lone, lone, lone.

So I pine and dree,  
Till the night that knows no morrow  
Sees me wrapped in clay-vest.  
Thou, chill world, that gavest  
Me the bitter boon alone of sorrow,  
Give then a grave to me,  
Dark, sad, all unknown,  
Lone, lone, lone.

## LOVE

From eternity the course of love was writ on leaves  
of snow ;  
Hence it wanders like a vagrant when the winds of  
coldness blow ;  
And the lamp of love is cold and chill where constancy  
is weak,  
And the lily comes to pine upon deserted beauty's cheek.  
From eternity the might of love was writ on leaves of  
fire ;  
Hence the soul of love in spiral flames would mount  
for ever higher.  
And the vermeil sun of Eden won, leaves hope no  
more to seek,  
And the damask rose ascends her throne on happy  
beauty's cheek.

From eternity the fate of love was writ on leaves of  
gloom,  
For the night of its decay must come, and darkness  
build the tomb;  
Then the waste of life, a garden once, again is black  
and bleak,  
And the raven tresses mourningly o'ershadow beauty's  
cheek.

Ah, the joys of love are sweet and false, are sorrows  
in disguise,  
Like the cheating wealth of golden eve, ere night  
break up the skies.  
If the graves of earth were opened, O if Hades could  
but speak,  
What a world of ruined souls would curse the sheen  
of beauty's cheek!

### TRUST NOT THE WORLD, NOR TIME<sup>1</sup>

Trust not the world, nor time; they are liar-mates.  
(*Ya Hu!*)<sup>2</sup>  
Wealth borrows wings, and woman goes her way.  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
Into the old house with the ebon gates  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
Who enters is but guest, and must not stay.  
(*Ya Hu!*)

<sup>1</sup> A passage from Hudayi II., a native of Anatolia; he died in 1628, and lies buried near Constantinople.

<sup>2</sup> The familiar cry of the dervishes.

Look not upon the sun, for that shall die,  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
Love not the roses, for they must decay;  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
The child is caught by all that dupes the eye:  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
The man should gird his loins; he cannot stay.  
(*Ya Hu!*)

From moon to moon time rolleth as a river.  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
Tho' night will soon o'erdark thy life's last ray,  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
Earth is the prison of the True Believer;  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
And who in prison stipulates to stay?  
(*Ya Hu!*)

Up, dreamer, up! What takest life to be?  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
Are centuries not made of night and day?  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
Call now on God while He will list to thee!  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
The caravan moves on: it will not stay.  
(*Ya Hu!*)

Remember Him whom heaven and earth adore;  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
Fast, and deny thyself; give alms, and pray.  
(*Ya Hu!*)

Thy bark drifts hourly toward the phantom shore;  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
The sails are up, the vessel cannot stay.  
(*Ya Hu!*)

As yet the accursing scroll is incomplete,  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
But Scales and Bridge<sup>1</sup> maintain their dread array.  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
Now thou art here, now at the judgment-seat,  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
For death and justice brook no long delay.  
(*Ya Hu!*)

Ah, (trust Hudayi!) he alone from birth  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
Is guided by the Guardian Four<sup>2</sup> alway,  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
He is alone the friend of God on earth,  
(*Ya Hu!*)  
Who visits earth, and doth not sigh to stay.  
(*Ya Hu!*)

<sup>1</sup> "The scales of Judgment, one of which hangs over Paradise, and the other over Hell. The Bridge is laid over the midst of Hell, and is finer than a hair and sharper than the edge of a sword; and those who cannot pass this bridge fall into Hell." — SALE's *Prelim. Disc.*

<sup>2</sup> The Guardian Four are the four caliphs next in succession to Mahomet : Omar, Ali, Osman, and Abubekhr.

## RELIC OF SERVI

When the mourner sits at the feast of woe  
The wine is gall, and the lights burn low.  
How bounded my heart in my younger years  
Ere grief had unlocked the fount of my tears !  
Now dead are the roses of hope in their bloom,  
And those that I loved are dust in the tomb,  
And of all that gave Servi pleasure or pain  
His songs and his sorrows alone remain.<sup>1</sup>

## JEALOUSY (38)

“ My darling tiny little girl,  
I'll give thee jewelled shoes and dresses,  
I'll give thee zones of silk and pearl ;  
And tell me who has combed thy hair ?  
I'll give thee kisses and caresses.  
And say : what youth has combed thy hair ? ”

“ O by my word, O by my truth,  
O by the life of Ali Shah !  
Aminah knows no stranger youth.  
By all the times that thou hast kissed her,  
Her hair was combed by Zillalah,  
Her own beloved sister ! ”

<sup>1</sup> It is a singular coincidence that we find almost the same sentiment in Schutze :

“ Und mir ist nichts aus jener Zeit geblieben,  
Als nur dies Lied, mein Leiden und mein Liebän. ”

“ My own, my whitest girl, I vow  
I'll bring thee sweetmeats sugared newly.  
And tell me, only tell me now  
Who over-darked thine eyes with *kohl*?  
My white Aminah, tell me truly  
Who over-darked thine eyes with *kohl*? ”

“ O by my word, O by my soul,  
O by the soul of Ali Shah!  
Myself o'er-darked mine eyes with *kohl*;  
'Twas given me by my own dear mother,  
My whitest mother Fatimah:  
I had it from none other.”

“ My playful girl, I'll give thee rings,  
And gold, and gems beyond comparing;  
I'll give thee thousand costly things!  
And say, who bit those lips of thine?  
Come, tell what Kuzzilbash so daring  
Hath bitten those red lips of thine.”

“ O by my love, O by my life!  
'Twas by a bright red rose this morn  
Given me by 'Zayde, my brother's wife,  
These guiltless lips of mine were bitten.  
(For brightest rose hath sharpest thorn:  
This, as thou knowest, is written.) ”

“ Thou crafty girl, I know thine art!  
Dread thou my wrath: I give thee warning.  
But if thou wouldst regain my heart  
Speak: tell me who has torn thy shawl!

Say what young Galionjee this morning  
Tore thus in twain thy scarlet shawl?

O faithless, truthless, worthless jade!  
I have tracked thee, then, thro' all thy lying.  
Away! No jewels, no brocade,  
No sweetmeats shalt thou have of me.  
Away, false girl! Thy tears and sighing  
Seem worse than even thy lies to be."

### THE WORLD: A GHAZEL

To this khan, and from this khan  
How many pilgrims came and went too!  
In this khan, and by this khan  
What arts were spent, what hearts were rent too!  
To this khan and from this khan  
Which, for penance, man is sent to,  
Many a van and caravan  
Crowded came, and shrouded went too.  
Christian man and Mussulman,  
Guebre, heathen, Jew, and Gentoo,  
To this khan, and from this khan,  
Weeping came, and sleeping went too.  
A riddle this since time began,  
Which many a sage his mind hath bent to:  
All came, all went; but never man  
Knew whence they came, or where they went to!



## THE TIME OF THE BARMECIDES (39)

My eyes are filmed, my beard is gray,  
I am bowed with the weight of years ;  
I would I were stretched in my bed of clay,  
With my long-lost youth's compeers !  
For back to the past, tho' the thought brings woe,  
My memory ever glides,  
To the old, old time, long, long ago,  
The time of the Barmecides !  
To the old, old time, long, long ago,  
The time of the Barmecides.

Then youth was mine, and a fierce wild will,  
And an iron arm in war,  
And a fleet foot high upon Ishkar's hill,  
When the watch-lights glimmered afar ;  
And as fiery a barb as any I know  
That Kurd or Bedouin rides,  
Ere my friends lay low, long, long ago,  
In the time of the Barmecides.  
Ere my friends lay low, long, long ago,  
In the time of the Barmecides.

One golden goblet illumed my board,  
One silver dish was there ;  
At hand my tried Karamanian sword  
Lay always bright and bare ;  
For those were the days when the angry blow  
Supplanted the word that chides,

When hearts could glow, long, long ago,  
In the time of the Barmecides ;  
When hearts could glow, long, long ago,  
In the time of the Barmecides.

Thro' city and desert my mates and I  
Were free to rove and roam,  
Our diapered canopy the deep of the sky,  
Or the roof of the palace dome :  
O ours was that vivid life to and fro  
Which only sloth derides !  
Men spent life so, long, long ago,  
In the time of the Barmecides ;  
Men spent life so, long, long ago,  
In the time of the Barmecides.

I see rich Bagdad once again,  
With its turrets of Moorish mould,  
And the Caliph's twice five hundred men  
Whose binishes flamed with gold ;  
I call up many a gorgeous show  
Which the pall of oblivion hides :  
All passed like snow, long, long ago,  
With the time of the Barmecides ;  
All passed like snow, long, long ago,  
With the time of the Barmecides.

But mine eye is dim, and my beard is gray,  
And I bend with the weight of years.  
May I soon go down to the house of clay  
Where slumber my youth's compeers !

---

For with them and the past, tho' the thought wakes  
    woe,

My memory ever abides ;  
And I mourn for the times gone long ago,  
For the times of the Barmecides !  
I mourn for the times gone long ago,  
For the times of the Barmecides !



## Original Poems

### II. Pro Patria



## IRISH NATIONAL HYMN

O Ireland, ancient Ireland !  
Ancient, yet for ever young,  
Thou our mother, home and sireland,  
Thou at length hast found a tongue.  
Proudly thou, at length,  
Resistest in triumphant strength ;  
Thy flag of freedom floats unfurled ;  
And as that mighty God existeth,  
Who giveth victory when and where He listeth,  
Thou yet shalt wake and shake the nations of the  
world !

For this dull world still slumbers,  
Witless of its wants or loves,  
Though, like Galileo, numbers  
C., aloud " It moves ! it moves ! "  
In a midnight dream,  
Drifts it down time's wreckful stream.  
All march, but few descry the goal.  
O Ireland ! be it thy high duty  
To teach the world the might of moral beauty,  
And stamp God's image truly on the struggling soul.

Strong in thy self-reliance,  
Not in idle threat or boast,

Hast thou hurled thy fierce defiance  
At the haughty Saxon host ;  
Thou hast claimed, in sight  
Of high Heaven, thy long-lost right.  
Upon thy hills, along thy plains,  
In the green bosom of thy valleys,  
The new-born soul of holy freedom rallies,  
And calls on thee to trample down in dust thy chains !

Deep, saith the eastern story,  
Burns in Iran's mines a gem,  
For its dazzling hues and glory  
Worth a Sultan's diadem.  
But from human eyes  
Hidden there it ever lies !  
The aye-travailing gnomes alone,  
Who toil to form the mountain's treasure,  
May gaze and gloat, with pleasure without measure,  
Upon the lustrous beauty of that wonder-stone.

So is it with a nation  
Which would win for richest dower  
That bright pearl, self-liberation :  
It must labor hour by hour.  
Strangers, who travail  
To lay bare the gem, shall fail ;  
Within itself, must grow, must glow,  
Within the depths of its own bosom  
Must flower in living might, must broadly blossom  
The hopes that shall be born ere freedom's tree can  
blow.



Go on, then, all rejoiceful !  
March on thy career, unbowed !  
Ireland ! let thy noble voiceful  
Spirit cry to God aloud !  
Man will bid thee speed,  
God will aid thee in thy need ;  
The time, the hour, the power are near :  
Be sure thou soon shalt form the vanguard  
Of that illustrious band, whom Heaven and man  
guard :  
And these words come from one whom some have  
called a seer.

## AN INVITATION (40)

Friends to freedom ! is't not time  
That your course were shaped at length ?  
Wherefore stand ye loitering here ?  
Seek some healthier, holier clime,  
Where your souls may grow in strength,  
And whence love hath exiled fear !

Europe, — Southron, Saxon, Celt,  
Sits alone, in tattered robe.  
In our day she burns with none  
Of the lightning-life she felt,  
When Rome shook the troubled globe,  
Twenty centuries ago.

Deutschland sleeps : her star hath waned.  
France, the thundress whilom, now

Singeth small, with bated breath.  
Spain is bleeding, Poland chained ;  
Italy can but groan and vow ;  
England lieth sick to death.<sup>1</sup>

Cross with me the Atlantic's foam,  
And your genuine goal is won !  
Purely freedom's breezes blow,  
Merrily freedom's children roam,  
By the dædal Amazon,  
And the glorious Ohio !

Thither take not gems and gold :  
Naught from Europe's robber-hoards  
Must profane the western zones.  
Thither take ye spirits bold,  
Thither take ye ploughs and swords,  
And your fathers' buried bones !

Come ! if liberty's true fires  
Burn within your bosoms, come !  
If ye would that in your graves  
Your free sons should bless their sires,  
Make the far green west your home ;  
Cross with me the Atlantic waves !

<sup>1</sup> "England leidet von einer todtlichen Krankheit, ohne Hoffnung wie ohne Heilung." — England labors under a deadly sickness without hope and without remedy. — NIEBUHR.

## SOUL AND COUNTRY

Arise, my slumbering soul, arise!  
And learn what yet remains for thee  
To dree or do!  
The signs are flaming in the skies;  
A struggling world would yet be free,  
And live anew.  
The earthquake hath not yet been born  
That soon shall rock the lands around,  
Beneath their base.  
Immortal freedom's thunder-horn,  
As yet, yields but a doleful sound  
To Europe's race.

Look round, my soul, and see and say  
If those about thee understand  
Their mission here;  
The will to smite, the power to slay,  
Abound in every heart and hand,  
Afar, anear.  
But, God! must yet the conqueror's sword  
Pierce mind, as heart, in this proud year?  
O dream it not!  
It sounds a false blaspheming word,  
Begot and born of moral fear,  
And ill-begot!

To leave the world a name is naught;  
To leave a name for glorious deeds

And works of love,  
A name to waken lightning thought,  
And fire the soul of him who reads,  
This tells above.  
Napoleon sinks to-day before  
The ungilded shrine, the single soul  
Of Washington;  
Truth's name, alone, shall man adore,  
Long as the waves of time shall roll  
Henceforward on!

My countrymen! my words are weak,  
My health is gone, my soul is dark,  
My heart is chill;  
Yet would I fain and fondly seek  
To see you borne in freedom's bark  
O'er ocean still.  
Beseech your God, and bide your hour:  
He cannot, will not, long be dumb;  
Even now His tread  
Is heard o'er earth with coming power;  
And coming, trust me, it will come,  
Else were He dead!

### A HIGHWAY FOR FREEDOM

"My suffering country shall be freed,  
And shine with tenfold glory!"  
So spake the gallant Winkelried  
Renowned in German story.

"No tyrant, though of kingly grade,  
Shall cross or darken my way!"  
Out flashed his blade; and so he made  
For freedom's course a highway.

We want a man like this, with power  
To rouse the world by one word;  
We want a chief to meet the hour,  
To march the masses sunward.  
But chief or none, thro' blood and fire  
My fatherland lies thy way!  
The men must fight who dare desire  
For freedom's course a highway.

Alas, I can but idly gaze  
Around, in grief and wonder;  
The people's will alone can raise  
The people's shout of thunder.  
Too long, O friends! you faint for fear  
In secret crypt and byway;  
At last, be men! Stand forth, and clear  
For freedom's course a highway.

You intersect wood, lea, and lawn  
With roads for monster wagons,  
Wherein you speed like lightning, drawn  
By fiery iron dragons.  
So do: such work is good, no doubt.  
But why not seek some high way  
For Mind, as well? Path also out  
For freedom's course a highway!

Yes, up! and let your weapons be  
Sharp steel, and self-reliance.  
Why waste a burning energy  
In void and vain defiance,  
And phrases fierce and fugitive?  
'Tis deeds, not words, that I weigh:  
Your swords, your guns, alone can give  
To freedom's course a highway!

### TO MY NATIVE LAND

Awake, arise, shake off thy dreams!  
Thou art not what thou wert of yore.  
Of all those rich, those dazzling beams  
That once illumed thine aspect o'er,  
Show me a solitary one  
Whose glory is not quenched and done.

The harp remaineth where it fell,  
With mouldering frame and broken chord;  
Around the song there hangs no spell,  
No laurel wreath entwines the sword;  
And startlingly the footstep falls  
Along thy dim and dreary halls.

When other men in future years  
In wonder ask how this could be,  
Then answer only by thy tears  
That ruin fell on thine and thee,

Because thyself wouldst have it so,  
Because thou welcomedst the blow

To stamp dishonor on thy brow  
Was not within the power of earth.  
And art thou agonized, when now  
The hour that lost thee all thy worth,  
And turned thee to the thing thou art,  
Rushes upon thy bleeding heart?

Weep, weep, degraded one: the deed,  
The desperate deed, was all thine own;  
Thou madest more than maniac speed  
To hurl thine honors from their throne.  
Thine honors fell; and when they fell,  
The nations rang thy funeral knell.

Well may thy sons be seared in soul,  
Their groans be deep by night and day!  
Till day and night forget to roll,  
Their noblest hopes shall morn decay;  
Their freshest flowers shall die by blight;  
Their brightest sun shall set ere night.

The stranger, as he treads thy sod  
And views thy universal wreck,  
May execrate the foot that trod  
Triumphant on a prostrate neck;  
But what is that to thee? Thy woes  
May hope in vain for pause or close.

Awake, arise, shake off thy dreams !  
'Tis idle all to talk of power  
And fame and glory ; these are themes  
Befitting ill so dark an hour.  
Till miracles are wrought for thee,  
No fame nor glory shalt thou see.

Thou art forsaken of the earth,  
Which makes a byword of thy name.  
Nations, and thrones, and powers whose birth  
As yet is not, shall rise to fame,  
Shall flourish, and may fall : but thou  
Shalt linger, as thou lingerest now.

And till all earthly power shall wane,  
And time's gray pillar, groaning, fall,  
Thus shall it be ! and still in vain  
Thou shalt essay to burst the thrall  
Which binds, in fetters forged by fate,  
The wreck and ruin of what once was great.

### HYMN FOR PENTECOST (41)

Pure Spirit of the alway-faithful God,  
Kindler of Heaven's true light within the soul !  
From the lorn land our sainted fathers trod,  
Ascends to Thee our cry of hope and dole.  
Thee, Thee we praise ;  
To Thee we raise  
Our choral hymn in these awakening days :



O send us down anew that fire  
Which of old lived in David's and Isaiah's lyre.

Centuries had rolled, and earth lay tombed in sleep,  
The nightmare-sleep of nations beneath kings;  
And far abroad o'er liberty's great deep  
Death's angel waved his black and stilling wings.  
Then struck Thine hour!

Thou, in Thy power,  
But breathedst, and the free stood up, a tower;  
And tyranny's thrones and strongholds fell,  
And men made jubilee for an abolished hell.

And she, our mother-home, the famed, the fair,  
The golden house of light and intellect,  
Must she still groan in her intense despair?  
Shall she lie prone while Europe stands erect?  
Forfend this, Thou  
To whom we vow  
Souls even our giant wrongs shall never bow:  
Thou wilt not leave our green flag furled,  
Nor bear that we abide the byword of the world.

Like the last lamp that burned in Tullia's tomb  
Through ages, vainly, with unwaning ray,  
Our star of hope lights but a path of gloom  
Whose false track leads us round and round alway.  
But thou canst ope  
A gate from hope  
To victory! Thou canst nerve our arms to cope  
With looming storm and danger still,  
And lend a thunder-voice to the land's lightning-will.

Descend then, Spirit of the Eternal King!  
To thee, to Him, to His avenging Son,  
The Triune God, in boundless trust we cling:  
His help once ours, our nationhood is won.  
We watch the time  
Till that sublime  
Event shall thrill the free of every clime.  
Speed, mighty Spirit! speed its march,  
And thus complete for earth mankind's triumphal arch.

## Original Poems

### III. Those on Miscellaneous Subjects



## POMPEII (42)

The heralds of thy ruin and despair  
Thickened and quickened as thy time drew nigh :  
What prodigies of sound convulsed the air !  
How many a death-flag was unfurled on high !  
The sullen sun went down, a globe of blood,  
Rayless, and coloring every heart with gloom,  
Till even the dullest felt and understood  
The coming of an overwhelming doom,  
The presage of a destiny and fall,  
A shock, a thunder-shock, for thee, for them, for all.

The sullen sun went down, a globe of blood  
Rayless, and coloring every soul with gloom ;  
And men's imagination, prone to brood  
Over the worst, and summon from the womb  
Of unborn time the evil and the dark,  
Launched forth in fear upon that shoreless ocean  
Whose whirlpool billows but engulf the barque.  
Conjectural dread, and each fresh-felt emotion,  
Like spectral figures on a magic mirror,  
Seemed wilder than the last, and stronglier stung with  
terror.

We shrink within ourselves when night and storm  
Are darkly mustering; for to every soul  
Heaven here foreshadows character and form  
Of Nature's death-hour. Doth the thunder roll,

The wild wave boil, the lightning stream or strike,  
Flood, fire, and earthquake devastate, in vain?  
Or is there not a voice which peals alike  
To all, from these, conjuring up that train  
Of scenes and images that shall be born  
In living naked might upon the Judgment Morn?

If thus we cower to tempest and to night,  
How feltest thou when first the red bolt broke,  
That seventeen suffocating centuries might  
Enshroud thine ashes in time's midnight cloak?  
Where wert thou in that moment? Was thy power  
All a funereal phantom? thy renown  
An echo? thine the triumph of an hour?  
Enough! I rave: when empires, worlds, go down  
Time's wave to dissolution, when they bow  
To fate, let none ask *where*, but simply *what* wert  
thou!

The desolated cities which of yore  
Perished by flooding fire and sulphury rain,  
Where sleeps the Dead Sea's immemorial shore,  
Lie, blasted wrecks, below that mortar plain. (43)  
They fell, thou fellest! But, renounced of earth,  
Blotted from being for eternal years,  
Their image chills the life-blood: thine gives birth  
Even while we shudder, to some human tears.  
Hadst thou less guilt? Who knows? The book of  
time  
Bears, on each leaf alike, the broad red stamp of  
crime.

## TWENTY GOLDEN YEARS AGO (44)

O the rain, the weary, dreary rain,  
How it splashes on the window-sill !  
Night, I guess too, must be on the wane,  
Strass and Gass<sup>1</sup> around are grown so still.  
Here I sit, with coffee in my cup :  
Ah ! 'twas rarely I beheld it flow  
In the tavern where I loved to sup  
Twenty golden years ago !

Twenty years ago, alas ! — (But stay :  
On my life, 'tis half-past twelve o'clock !  
After all, the hours do slip away.  
Come, here goes to burn another block.  
For the night, or morn, is wet and cold,  
And my fire is dwindling rather low :  
I had fire enough, when young and bold,  
Twenty golden years ago.)

Dear ! I don't feel well at all, somehow :  
Few in Weimar dream how bad I am.  
Floods of tears grow common with me now,  
High Dutch floods, that reason cannot dam.  
Doctors think I'll neither live nor thrive  
If I mope at home so ; I don't know !  
Am I living now ? I was alive  
Twenty golden years ago.

<sup>1</sup> Street and lane.

Wifeless, friendless, flagonless, alone,  
Not quite bookless, tho', unless I choose;  
Left with naught to do, except to groan,  
Not a soul to woo, except the muse; —  
O but this is hard for me to bear,  
Me, who whilom lived so much *en haut*,  
Me, who broke all hearts like chinaware,  
Twenty golden years ago!

Perhaps 'tis better time's defacing waves  
Long have quenched the radiance of my brow;  
They who curse me nightly from their graves,  
Scarce could love me were they living now.  
But my loneliness hath darker ills:  
Such dun duns as Conscience, Thought and Co.,  
Awful Gorgons! worse than tailor's bills  
Twenty golden years ago!

Did I paint a fifth of what I feel,  
O how plaintive you would ween I was!  
But I won't, albeit I have a deal  
More to wail about than Kerner has!  
Kerner's tears are wept for withered flowers,  
Mine for withered hopes; my scroll of woe  
Dates, alas, from youth's deserted bowers,  
Twenty golden years ago!

Yet, may Deutschland bardlings flourish long!  
Me, I tweak no beak among them; hawks  
Must not pounce on hawks: besides, in song  
I could once beat all of them by chawks.



Though you find me, as I near my goal,  
Sentimentalizing like Rousseau,  
Ah, I had a grand Byronian soul  
Twenty golden years ago !

Tick-tick, tick-tick ! — Not a sound save time's,  
And the wind-gust as it drives the rain.  
Tortured torturer of reluctant rhymes,  
Go to bed, and rest thine aching brain !  
Sleep ! no more the dupe of hopes or schemes.  
Soon thou sleepest where the thistles blow :  
Curious anticlimax to thy dreams  
Twenty golden years ago !

### TO LAURA (45)

The charm that gilded life is over !  
I live to feel I live in vain,  
And worlds were worthless to recover  
That dazzling dream of mine again.  
The idol I adored is broken,  
And I may weep its overthrow ;  
Thy lips at length my doom have spoken,  
And nothing now remains but woe.

And is it, indeed, we sever,  
And hast thou, then, forgotten all ?  
And canst thou cast me off for ever,  
To mourn, a dark and hopeless thrall ?  
O perfidy ! In friend or foe,  
In stranger, lover, husband, wife,

Thou art the blackest drop of woe  
That bubbles in the cup of life.

But most of all in woman's breast  
Triumphant in thy blasting power,  
Thou reignest like a demon-guest  
Enthroned in some celestial bower.  
Oh, cold and cruel she, who while  
She lavishes all wiles to win  
Her lover o'er, can smile and smile,  
Yet be all dark and false within.

Who, when his glances on another  
Too idly and too long have dwelt,  
Will sigh as if she sought to smother  
The grief her bosom never felt;  
Who, versed in every witching art  
That e'er the warmest love would dare,  
First having gained her victim's heart,  
Then turns him over to despair!

Alas, and can such treachery be?  
The worm that winds in slime along,  
Is nobler, better far than she  
Who revels in that heartless wrong!  
Go now, and triumph in thy guilt,  
And weave thy wanton spells anew;  
Go, false as fair, and, if thou wilt,  
Again betray the fond and true.

Yet this, my last and long farewell,  
Is less in anger than in sorrow;

Mine is the tale which myriads tell  
Who loathe to-day, and dread to-morrow.  
Me, Frances! me thou never knewest,  
Nor sawest, that if my speech was cold,  
The love is deepest oft, and truest  
That burns within the breast untold.

My soul was formed for love and grief;  
These both were blended at my birth;  
But lifeless as a shrivelled leaf,  
Lie now my dearest hopes in earth.  
I sigh, when none my sighs return;  
I love, but am not loved again:  
Till life be past this heart must burn,  
With none to soothe or share its pain.

Farewell! In life's gay giddy whirl  
Soon wilt thou have forgotten me;  
But where, O most dissembling girl!  
Where shall I from thine image flee?  
Farewell! for thee the heavens are bright,  
And flowers along thy pathway lie;  
The bolts that strike, the winds that blight  
Will pass thy bower of beauty by.

But when shall I find rest? Alas,  
Soon as the winter winds shall rave  
At midnight, thro' the long dark grass  
Above mine unremembered grave.

## SONNET

Bird that discourest from yon poplar bough,  
Outweeping night, and in thy eloquent tears  
Holding sweet converse with the thousand spheres  
That glow and glisten from night's glorious brow,  
O may thy lot be mine! that, lonely now,  
And doomed to mourn the remnant of my years,  
My song may swell to more than mortal ears,  
And sweet as is thy strain be poured my vow.

Bird of the poets' paradise! by thee  
Taught where the tides of feeling deepest tremble,  
Playful in gloom, like some sequestered sea,  
I too amidst my anguish would dissemble,  
And tune misfortune to such melody,  
That my despair thy transports should resemble.

## CURTAIN THE LAMP

Curtain the lamp, and bury the bowl,  
The ban is on drinking;  
Reason shall reign the queen of the soul  
When the spirits are sinking.  
Chained lies the demon that smote with blight  
Men's morals and laurels,  
Then hail to health, and a long good night  
To old wine, and new quarrels!

Nights shall descend, and no taverns ring  
To the roar of our revels;

Mornings shall dawn but none of them bring  
White lips and blue devils.  
Riot and frenzy sleep with remorse  
In the obsolete potion,  
And mind grows calm as a ship on her course  
O'er the level of ocean.

So should it be ! for man's world of romance  
Is fast disappearing,  
And shadows of changes are seen in advance,  
Whose epochs are nearing.  
And the days are at hand, when the best shall require  
All means of salvation.  
And the souls of men shall be tried in the fire  
Of the final probation !

And the witling no longer or sneers or smiles,  
And the worldling dissembles,  
And the black-hearted sceptic feels anxious at whiles,  
And marvels and trembles ;  
And fear and defiance are blent in the jest  
Of the blind self-deceiver ;  
But hope bounds high in the joyous breast  
Of the childlike believer !

Darken the lamp then, and shatter the bowl,  
Ye faithfulest-hearted !  
And as your swift years travel on to the goal  
Whither worlds have departed,  
Spend labor, life, soul, in your zeal to atone  
For the past and its errors :  
So best shall you bear to encounter alone  
The Event ! and its terrors.

## THE DYING ENTHUSIAST (46)

Speak no more of life !  
What can life bestow  
In this amphitheatre of strife  
All times dark with tragedy and woe ?  
Know'st thou not how care and pain  
Build their lampless dwelling in the brain,  
Even as the stern intrusion  
Of our teachers, time and truth,  
Turn to gloom the bright illusions  
Rainbowed on the soul of youth ?  
Could I live to find that this is so ?  
Oh ! no, no.

As the stream of time  
Sluggishly doth flow,  
Look, how all of beaming or sublime  
Sinks into the black abysm below !  
Yea, the loftiest intellect  
Earliest on the strand of life is wrecked.  
Naught of lovely, nothing glorious,  
Lives to triumph o'er decay ;  
Desolation reigns victorious :  
Mind is dungeon-walled by clay :  
Could I bear to feel mine own laid low ?  
Oh ! no, no.

Restless o'er the earth,  
Thronging millions go :  
But behold how genius, love, and worth,  
Move like lonely phantoms to and fro.

Suns are quenched, and kingdoms fall,  
But the doom of these outdarkens all!  
Die they then? Yes, love's devotion,  
Stricken, withers in its bloom;  
Fond affections, deep as ocean,  
In their cradle find their tomb:  
Shall I linger, then, to count each throe?  
Oh! no, no.

Prison-bursting death!  
Welcome be thy blow!  
Thine is but the forfeit of my breath,  
Not the spirit, nor the spirit's glow.  
Spheres of beauty, hallowed spheres  
Undefaced by time, undimmed by tears,  
Henceforth hail! Oh, who would grovel  
In a world impure as this,  
Who would weep in cell or hovel,  
When a palace might be his?  
Wouldst thou have me that bright lot forego?  
Oh! no, no.

### TO JOSEPH BRENAN (47)

Friend and brother, and yet more than brother,  
Thou endowed with all of Shelley's soul!  
Thou whose heart so burneth for thy Mother,  
That, like his, it may defy all other  
Flames, while time shall roll!

Thou of language bland, and manner meekest,  
Gentle bearing, yet unswerving will !  
Gladly, gladly, list I when thou speakest :  
Honored highly is the man thou seekest  
To redeem from ill !

Truly showest thou me the one thing needful !  
Thou art not, nor is the world, yet blind.  
Truly have I been long years unheedful  
Of the thorns and tares that choked the weedful  
Garden of my mind !

Thorns and tares which rose in rank profusion  
Round my scanty fruitage and my flowers,  
Till I almost deemed it self-delusion,  
To attempt or glance at their extrusion  
From their midnight bowers.

Dream and waking life have now been blended  
Long time in the caverns of my soul ;  
Oft in daylight have my steps descended  
Down to that dusk realm where all is ended,  
Save remeadless dole !

Oft, with tears, I have groaned to God for pity,  
Oft gone wandering till my way grew dim ;  
Oft sung unto Him a prayerful ditty,  
Oft, all lonely in this throngful city,  
Raised my soul to Him !

And from path to path His mercy tracked me :  
From a many a peril snatched He me ;



When false friends pursued, betrayed, attacked me,  
When gloom overdarked, and sickness racked me,  
He was by to save and free !

Friend ! thou warnest me in truly noble  
Thoughts and phrases : I will heed thee well.  
Well will I obey thy mystic double  
Counsel, through all scenes of woe and trouble,  
As a magic spell !

Yes ! to live a bard, in thought and feeling :  
Yes ! to act my rhyme, by self-restraint,  
This is truth's, is reason's deep revealing  
Unto me from thee, as God's to a kneeling  
And entrancèd saint !

Fare thee well ! We now know each the other ;  
Each has struck the other's inmost chords ;  
Fare thee well, my friend and more than brother :  
And may scorn pursue me, if I smother  
In my soul thy words !

#### LINES ON THE DEATH OF C. H. (48)

I stood aloof : I dared not to behold  
Thy relics covered over with the mould ;  
I shed no tear, I uttered not a groan,  
But Oh, I felt heartbroken and alone.

How feel I now ? The bitterness of grief  
Has passed, for all that is intense is brief.  
A softer sadness overshades my mind,  
But there thine image ever lies enshrined.

And if I mourn, (for this is human, too,)  
I mourn no longer that thy days were few,  
Nor that thou hast escaped the tears and woe,  
And deaths on deaths the living undergo.

Thou fadedst in the springtime of thy years :  
Life's juggling joys and spirit-wasting fears  
Thou knewest but in romance : and to thine eyes  
Man shone a god, the earth a paradise.

Thou diedst ere the icy breath of scorn  
Froze the warm feelings of thy girlhood's morn,  
Ere thou couldst learn that man is but a slave,  
And this bleak world a prison and a grave.

Thy spirit is at peace : peace ! blessed word  
Forgotten by the million, or unheard.  
But mine still struggles down this vale of death,  
And courts the favor of a little breath.

Thro' every stage of life's consuming fever  
The soul too often is her own deceiver,  
And revels, even in a world like this,  
In golden visions of unbounded bliss.

But he who, looking on the naked chart  
Of life, feels nature sinking at his heart,

He who is drugged with sorrow, he for whom  
Affliction carves a pathway to the tomb,

He will unite with me to bless that Power  
Who gathers and transplants the fragile flower  
Ere yet the spirit of the whirlwind storm  
Comes forth in wrath to prostrate and deform.

And if it be that God Himself removes  
From peril and contagion those He loves,  
Weep such no more; but strew with freshest roses  
The hallowed mound where innocence reposes.

### THE WORLD'S CHANGES

The solemn Shadow that bears in his hands  
The conquering scythe, and the glass of sands,  
Paused once on his flight where the sunrise shone  
On a warlike city's towers of stone;  
And he asked of a panoplied soldier near:  
"How long has this fortified city been here?"  
And the man looked up, man's pride on his brow:  
"The city stands here from the ages of old;  
And as it was then, and as it is now,  
So will it endure till the funeral knell  
Of the world be knolled,  
As eternity's annals shall tell."

And after a thousand years were o'er,  
The Shadow paused over the spot once more.

And vestige was none of a city there,  
But lakes lay blue, and plains lay bare,  
And the marshalled corn stood high and pale,  
And a shepherd piped of love in a vale.  
“How,” spake the Shadow, “can temple and tower  
Thus fleet like mist from the morning hour?”  
But the shepherd shook the long locks from his brow:  
“The world is filled with sheep and corn!  
Thus was it of old, thus is it now:  
Thus, too, will it be while moon and sun  
Rule night and morn,  
For Nature and life are one.”

And after a thousand years were o’er,  
The Shadow paused over the spot once more.

And lo! in the room of the meadow-lands  
A sea foamed far over saffron sands,  
And flashed in the noontide, bright and dark;  
And a fisher was casting his nets from a barque.  
How marvelled the Shadow! “Where, then, is the  
plain?  
And where be the acres of golden grain?”  
But the fisher dashed off the salt spray from his brow:  
“These waters begirdle the earth alway;  
The sea ever rolled, as it rolleth now.  
What babblest thou about grain and fields?  
By night, by day,  
Man looks for what ocean yields.”

And after a thousand years were o’er,  
The Shadow paused over the spot once more.

And the ruddy rays of the eventide  
Were gilding the skirts of a forest wide;  
The moss of the trees looked old, so old!  
And, valley and hill, the ancient mould  
Was robed in sward, an evergreen cloak:  
And a woodman sang as he felled an oak.  
Him asked the Shadow: "Rememberest thou  
Any trace of a sea where wave those trees?"  
But the woodman laughed. Said he: "I trow  
If oak and pine do flourish and fall,  
It is not amid seas!  
The earth is one forest all."

And after a thousand years were o'er,  
The Shadow paused over the spot once more.

And what saw the Shadow? A city again;  
But peopled by pale mechanical men,  
With workhouses filled, and prisons, and marts,  
And faces that spake exanimate hearts:  
Strange picture, and sad! was the Shadow's thought;  
And turning to one of the ghastly, he sought  
For a clue in words to the when and the how  
Of the ominous change he now beheld.  
But the man uplifted his careworn brow:  
"Change? What was life ever but conflict and  
change?  
From the ages of eld,  
Hath affliction been widening her range."

"Enough!" said the Shadow, and passed from the spot:  
"At last it is vanished, the beautiful youth

Of the earth, to return with to-morrow ;  
All changes have checkered mortality's lot,  
But this is the darkest ; for knowledge and truth  
Are but golden gates to the temple of sorrow."

### THE DEPARTURE OF LOVE (49)

Spirit of wordless love, that in the lone  
Bowers of the poet's musing soul doth weave  
Tissues of thought hued like the skies at eve  
Ere the last glories of the sun are flown !  
How soon, almost before our hearts have known  
The change, above the ruins of thy throne  
Whose vanished beauty we would fain retrieve  
With all earth's thrones beside, we stand and grieve,  
But weep not : for the world's chill breath has bound  
In chains of ice the fountains of our tears,  
And ever-mourning memory thenceforth rears  
Her altars upon desecrated ground,  
And always, with a low despondful sound,  
Tolls the disastrous bell of all our years.

### BEAR UP

Time rolleth on ; and with our years  
Our sorrows grow and multiply,  
Our visions fade ;  
With late remorse and withering fears,

We look for light to days gone by :  
But all is shade.  
Our dear fond friends have long been gone,  
No moon is up in heaven above ;  
The chill winds blow.  
The dolorous night of age comes on :  
The current of our life and love  
Moves low, moves slow.

Yet earth hath still a twofold dower :  
On desert sands the palm-trees rise  
In greenest bloom ;  
The dawn breaks at the darkest hour ;  
Stars brightliest shine when midnight skies  
Are palled in gloom ;  
The deep hath treasures unrevealed  
Of gold and gems and argosies  
And gallant ships ;  
The sword strikes hurtless on the shield ;  
And from the once plague-laden breeze  
Health greets thy lips !

Thou, therefore, man, shalt never droop,  
Shalt never doubt, shalt always trust  
The power of God :  
Thou art not heaven's or nature's dupe !  
This fleshly hull shall rot in dust,  
A trodden clod.  
But wilt thou cower, tho' death draw nigh ?  
The mouldering frame, the eternal soul,  
Which, say, is best ?  
Thou canst not live unless thou die,

Thou must march far to reach thy goal  
Of endless rest.

Bear up, even tho' thou be like me  
Stretched on a couch of torturing pain  
This weary day ;  
Tho' heaven and earth seem dark to thee,  
And thine eye glance around in vain  
For one hope-ray !  
Tho' overborne by wrong and ill,  
Tho' thou hast drained even to the lees  
Life's bitter cup,  
Though death and hell be round thee, still  
Place faith in God : He hears, He sees.  
Bear up ! Bear up !

## TWO SONNETS TO CAROLINE

### I

Have I not called thee angel-like and fair?  
What wouldst thou more? 'Twere perilous to gaze  
Long on those dark-bright eyes, whose flashing rays  
Fill with a soft and fond, yet proud, despair  
The bosoms of the shrouded few, who share  
Their locked-up thoughts with none. Thou hast  
their praise ;  
But Beauty hears not their adoring lays  
Which tremble when but whispered to the air.  
Yet think not, altho' stamped as one of those,



Ah, think not thou this heart hath never burned  
With passion deeply felt and ill-retained.  
If ice-cold now, its pulse no longer glows,  
The memory of unuttered love and woes  
Lies there, alas, too faithfully inured.

## II

For once I dreamed that mutual love was more  
Than a bright phantom thought; and when mankind  
Mocked mine illusion, then would I deplore  
That ignorance, and deem them cold and blind;  
And years rolled on, and still did I adore  
The unreal image loftily enshrined  
In the recesses of mine own sick mind.  
Enough: the spell is broke, the dream is o'er,  
The enchantment is dissolved; the world appears  
The thing it is, a theatre, a mart.  
Genius illumines, and the wand of art  
Renews the wonder of our childish years;  
Power awes, wealth shines, wit sparkles; but the  
heart,  
The heart is lost, for love no more endears.

## ENTHUSIASM

Not yet trodden-under wholly,  
Not yet darkened,  
O my spirit's flickering lamp! art thou:  
Still, alas, thou wanest, tho' but slowly,

And I feel as if my heart had hearkened  
To the whispers of despondence now.

Yet the world shall not enthrall me.  
Never, never !  
On my briary pathway to the grave  
Shapes of pain and peril may appal me,  
Agony and ruin may befall me,  
Darkness and dismay may hover ever ;  
But, cold world, I will not die thy slave.

Underneath my feet I trample  
You, ye juggles :  
Pleasure, passion, thirst of power and gold.  
Shall I, dare I, shame the bright example  
Beaming, burning, in the deeds and struggles  
Of the consecrated few of old ?

Sacred flame which art eternal,  
O bright essence,  
Thou, enthusiasm ! forsake me not.  
Ah, tho' life be reft of all her vernal  
Beauty, ever let thy magic presence  
Shed its glory round my clouded lot.

### THE LOVELY LAND: ON A LANDSCAPE PAINTED BY MACLISE

Glorious birth of mind and color !  
Gazing on thy radiant face,  
The most lorn of Adam's race  
Might forget all dolor !

What divinest light is beaming  
Over mountain, mead, and grove!  
That blue noontide sky above,  
Seems asleep and dreaming.

Rich Italia's wild-birds warble  
In the foliage of those trees :  
I can trace thee, Veronese,  
In these rocks of marble!

Yet, no! Mark I not where quiver  
The sun's rays on yonder stream?  
Only a Poussin could dream  
Such a sun and river.

What bold imaging! Stony valley,  
And fair bower of eglantine;  
Here I see the black ravine,  
There the liliated alley.

This is some rare climate olden,  
Peopled, not by men, but fays;  
Some lone land of genii days,  
Storyful and golden!

O for magic power to wander  
One bright year through such a land!  
Might I even one hour stand  
On the blest hills yonder!

But—what spy I? . . . Here by noonlight  
'Tis the same! the pillar-tower  
I have oft passed thrice an hour,  
Twilight, sunlight, moonlight.

Shame to me, my own, my sireland,  
Not to know thy soil and skies !  
Shame, that through Maclise's eyes  
I first see thee, Ireland !

Nay, no land doth rank above thee  
Or for loveliness or worth :  
So shall I, from this day forth,  
Ever sing and love thee.

### FRONTI NULLA FIDES

Beware of blindly trusting  
To outward art,  
And specious sheen ;  
For vice is oft encrusting  
The hollow heart  
Within, unseen.  
See that black pool below thee !  
There heaven sleeps  
In golden fire.  
Yet whatsoe'er it show thee,  
The mirror's deeps  
Are slime and mire.

### SIBERIA (50)

In Siberia's wastes  
The ice-wind's breath  
Woundeth like the toothèd steel :

Lost Siberia doth reveal  
Only blight and death.

Blight and death alone.  
No summer shines ;  
Night is interblent with day ;  
In Siberia's wastes, always  
The blood blackens, the heart pines.

In Siberia's wastes  
No tears are shed,  
For they freeze within the brain :  
Naught is felt but dullest pain,  
Pain acute, yet dead ;

Pain as in a dream,  
When years go by  
Funeral-paced, yet fugitive ;  
When man lives and doth not live,  
Doth not live, nor die.

In Siberia's wastes  
Are sands and rocks.  
Nothing blooms of green or soft,  
But the snow-peaks rise aloft,  
And the gaunt ice-blocks.

And the exile there  
Is one with those ;  
They are part, and he is part !  
For the sands are in his heart,  
And the killing snows.

Therefore, in those wastes  
None curse the Czar.  
Each man's tongue is cloven by  
The north blast, that heweth nigh  
With sharp scimitar.

And such doom each drees,  
Till, hunger-gnawn,  
Cold-slain, he at length sinks there;  
Yet scarce more a corpse than ere  
His last breath was drawn.

## A VISION OF CONNAUGHT IN THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY

(“Et moi, j'ai été aussi en Arcadie.” — And I, I, too, have been a dreamer. — *Inscription on a Painting by Poussin.*)

I walked entranced  
Through a land of morn;  
The sun, with wondrous excess of light,  
Shone down and glanced  
Over seas of corn  
And lustrous gardens aleft and right.  
Even in the clime  
Of resplendent Spain,  
Beams no such sun upon such a land;  
But it was the time,  
'Twas in the reign,  
Of Cahal Mor of the Wine-red Hand.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Irish and Oriental poets agree in attributing favorable or unfavorable weather, and abundant or deficient harvests, to the good or bad qualities of the reigning monarch. *Mor* means great.

Anon stood nigh  
By my side a man  
Of princely aspect and port sublime.  
Him queried I,  
"O my Lord and Khan!<sup>1</sup>  
What clime is this, and what golden time?"  
When he: "The clime  
Is a clime to praise,  
The clime is Erin's, the green and bland;  
And it is the time,  
These be the days,  
Of Cahal Mor of the Wine-red Hand!"

Then saw I thrones,  
And circling fires,  
And a dome rose near me, as by a spell,  
Whence flowed the tones  
Of silver lyres,  
And many voices in wreathèd swell;  
And their thrilling chime  
Fell on mine ears  
As the heavenly hymn of an angel-band:  
"It is now the time,  
These be the years,  
Of Cahal Mor of the Wine-red Hand!"

I sought the hall,  
And behold! a change  
From light to darkness, from joy to woe.  
Kings, nobles, all,

<sup>1</sup> *Ceann*, the Gaelic title for a chief.

Looked aghast and strange ;  
The minstrel group sat in dumbest show.  
Had some great crime  
Wrought this dread amaze,  
This terror? . . . None seemed to understand.  
'Twas then the time,  
We were in the days,  
Of Cahal Mor of the Wine-red Hand.

I again walked forth ;  
But lo, the sky  
Showed flecked with blood, and an alien sun  
Glared from the north,  
And there stood on high,  
Amid his shorn beams, a skeleton ! <sup>1</sup> . . .  
It was by the stream  
Of the castled Maine,  
One autumn eve, in the Teuton's land,  
That I dreamed this dream  
Of the time and reign  
Of Cahal Mor of the Wine-red Hand.

<sup>1</sup> "It was but natural that these portentous appearances should thus be exhibited on this occasion, for they were the heralds of a very great calamity that befell the Connacians in this year ; namely, the death of Cahal of the Red Hand, son of Torlogh Mor of the Wine, and King of Connaught, a prince of most amiable qualities, and into whose heart God had infused more piety and goodness than into the hearts of any of his contemporaries." — *Annals of the Four Masters*, A.D. 1224.



## THE SAW-MILL

My path lay towards the Mourne again ;  
But I stopped to rest by the hillside  
That glanced adown o'er the sunken glen,  
Which the saw-and-water-mills hide,  
Which now, as then,  
The saw-and-water-mills hide.

And there, as I lay reclined on the hill,  
Like a man made by sudden qualm ill, (51)  
I heard the water in the water-mill,  
And I saw the saw in the saw-mill.  
As I thus lay still,  
I saw the saw in the saw-mill.

The saw, the breeze, and the humming bees  
Lulled me into a dreamy reverie,  
Till the objects round me, hills, mills, trees,  
Seemed grown alive all and every ;  
By slow degrees  
Took life, as it were, all and every !

Anon the sound of the waters grew  
To a mournful ditty,  
And the song of the tree that the saw sawed through  
Disturbed my spirit with pity,  
Began to subdue  
My spirit with tenderest pity !

“ O wanderer ! the hour that brings thee back  
Is of all meet hours the meetest.

Thou now, in sooth, art on the track,  
Art nigher to home than thou weetest;  
Thou hast thought time slack,  
But his flight has been of the fleetest!

For thee it is that I dree such pain  
As, when wounded, even a plank will;  
My bosom is pierced, is rent in twain,  
That thine may ever bide tranquil,  
May ever remain  
Henceforward, untroubled and tranquil.

In a few days more, most lonely one!  
Shall I, as a narrow ark, veil  
Thine eyes from the glare of the world and sun,  
'Mong the urns in yonder dark vale,  
In the cold and dun  
Recesses of yonder dark vale!

For this grieve not! Thou knowest what thanks  
The weary-souled and the meek owe  
To Death!" . . . I awoke, and heard four planks  
Fall down with a saddening echo.  
I heard four planks  
Fall down with a hollow echo.

## THE ONE MYSTERY

'Tis idle ! we exhaust and squander  
The glittering mine of thought in vain ;  
All-baffled reason cannot wander  
Beyond her chain.  
The flood of life runs dark ; dark clouds  
Make lampless night around its shore :  
The dead, where are they ? In their shrouds !  
Man knows no more.

Evoke the ancient and the past ;  
Will one illumining star arise ?  
Or must the film, from first to last,  
O'erspread thine eyes ?  
When life, love, glory, beauty, wither,  
Will wisdom's page, or science' chart,  
Map out for thee the region whither  
Their shades depart ?

Supposest thou the wondrous powers  
To high imagination given,  
Pale types of what shall yet be ours,  
When earth is heaven ?  
When this decaying shell is cold,  
Ah, sayest thou the soul shall climb  
That magic mount she trod of old,  
Ere childhood's time ?

And shall the sacred pulse that thrilled,  
Thrill once again to glory's name ?

And shall the conquering love that filled  
All earth with flame,  
Reborn, revived, renewed, immortal,  
Resume his reign in prouder might,  
A sun beyond the ebon portal  
Of death and night ?

No more, no more ! . . . With aching brow,  
And restless heart, and burning brain,  
We ask the when, the where, the how,  
And ask in vain.  
And all philosophy, all faith,  
All earthly, all celestial lore,  
Have but one voice, which only saith :  
*Endure, adore.*

### THE NAMELESS ONE

Roll forth, my song, like the rushing river  
That sweeps along to the mighty sea ;  
God will inspire me while I deliver  
My soul of thee !

Tell thou the world, when my bones lie whitening  
Amid the last homes of youth and eld,  
That once there was one whose veins ran lightning  
No eye beheld.

Tell how his boyhood was one drear night-hour,  
How shone for him, through his grief and gloom,  
No star of all heaven sends to light our  
Path to the tomb.

Roll on, my song, and to after ages  
Tell how, disdaining all earth can give,  
He would have taught men, from wisdom's pages,  
The way to live.

And tell how trampled, derided, hated,  
And worn by weakness, disease, and wrong,  
He fled for shelter to God, who mated  
His soul with song ;

With song which alway, sublime or vapid,  
Flowed like a rill in the morning-beam,  
Perchance not deep, but intense and rapid :  
A mountain stream.

Tell how this Nameless, condemned for years long  
To herd with demons from hell beneath,  
Saw things that made him, with groans and tears, long  
For even death.

Go on to tell how with genius wasted,  
Betrayed in friendship, befooled in love,  
With spirit shipwrecked, and young hope blasted,  
He still, still strove,

Till, spent with toil, dreeing death for others,  
(And some whose hands should have wrought for him,  
If children live not for sires and mothers,)  
His mind grew dim ;

And he fell far through that pit abysmal,  
The gulf and grave of Maginn and Burns,  
And pawned his soul for the devil's dismal  
Stock of returns ;

But yet redeemed it in days of darkness,  
And shapes and signs of the final wrath,  
When death, in hideous and ghastly starkness,  
Stood on his path.

And tell how now, amid wreck and sorrow,  
And want, and sickness, and houseless nights,  
He bides in calmness the silent morrow  
That no ray lights.

And lives he still, then? Yes! Old and hoary  
At thirty-nine, from despair and woe,  
He lives, enduring what future story  
Will never know.

Him grant a grave to, ye pitying noble,  
Deep in your bosoms: there let him dwell!  
He, too, had tears for all souls in trouble  
Here, and in hell.

## Notes by the Editor

NOTE 1, page 115. If our dear friend, Master Edmund Spenser, had had his way in the south of Ireland, we should hardly have occasion to be thankful for a contemporary poet in the north, and his *Roisin Dubb*. In *A View of the Present State*, Spenser puts in the mouth of Irenæus a plea for the extermination of the bards, already greatly injured by the penal statutes under Elizabeth. "I have caused divers of them to be translated unto me that I might understand them, and surely they savored of sweet wit and good invention . . . sprinkled with some pretty flowers of their own natural device, which gave good grace and comeliness unto them. . . . But they seldom use to choose unto themselves the doings of good men for the ornaments of their poems; but whomsoever they find to be most licentious of life, most bold and lawless in his doings, most dangerous and desperate in all parts of disobedience and rebellious disposition, him they set up and glorify in their rhymes, him they praise to the people, and to young men, make an example to follow." Had they but sung *Gloriana*!

2, p. 128. The illustrious Colonel Owen Roe O'Neill, nephew of the Earl of Tyrone, had, like most Irish exiles to Spain, seen service in Flanders. He returned home in 1642, and headed the revolt in Ulster. The royalist war was crushed by Cromwell, but O'Neill was already dead (1648).

3, p. 129. Donogh Mac Con-Mara (a name sometimes incorrectly given as Macnamara), a native of County Waterford, wrote this very lovely lyric in Gaelic, while he was keep-

ing a boys' school in Hamburg. He was a great traveller, and had a most adventurous life. He was born in 1738, and dying in 1814, was buried at home.

4, p. 131. The peculiarly eighteenth-century Irish note of this characteristic poem is reason enough for its inclusion. The "marble" brow, the grave genealogical details, and the unavoidable reference to Helen of Troy, are most hedge-schoolmasterly touches.

5, p. 135. Neillidhe Bhán is an anonymous production. Its vehemence and incoherence stamp it as genuinely felt, as well as genuinely conceived. The lover boasts, in the first stanza, how gladly he would "breast the Shannon's waters" to reach the North, and in the third mentions "the flooding Shannon" as the reason of his absence!

6, p. 137. This O'Hussey is an undiscovered genius. In the *Ode for Cuconnaught in the North with Hugh* (his same chief, Hugh Maguire) occur some magnificent apostrophes, which should have adorned *Lyra Celtica*:—

"Thou joy, thou promise, thou sprightly salmon!  
Thou beauteous azure ocean-wave!  
Thou pourer of panic into the breasts of heroes!"

The close of the *avran* in the poem translated by Mangan will appeal to every reader, in its concentrated passion.

7, p. 141. "No Irish pilgrim," says a sympathetic writer, "ascends the Janiculum without thinking of Mangan, and mentally repeating, 'O Woman of the Piercing Wail.'" The celebrated poem has an intense monotony, comparable to Homer's catalogue, in its imagination of scenes and circumstances which might have comforted by corroboration the Lady Nuala O'Donnell, and brought to her side a host of fellow-mourners. From this very Celtic circumstance it draws much of its powerful effect. It was included, long ago, in Gavan Duffy's *Ballad Poetry of Ireland* (the best anthology of the sort extant), and deeply impressed one of the finest of



English critics. Concerning the book, Lord Jeffrey wrote to Mrs. Empson: "There are some most pathetic and many most spirited pieces, and all, with scarcely an exception, so entirely *national*. Do get the book and read it. I am most struck with *Soggarth Aroon*, after the first two stanzas, and a long, racy, authentic-sounding dirge for the Tyrconnell Princes."

8, p. 150. Mangan made this translation in the early part of 1847. "I have not been able," he says, "to discover the name of the author." There seems to be a great deal of Mangan in it, as it stands. In general character, however, it reminds one both of Neillidhe Bhán (Ellen Bawn) and the last three stanzas of the second part of *The Coolun*, a ballad put into enchanting English by Sir Samuel Ferguson:—

"O had you seen the *coolun*  
Walking down by the cuckoo's street!"

9, p. 152. Eoghan O'Sullivan the Red, an interesting Gaelic poet, cousin to Gaolach (Timothy) O'Sullivan, more celebrated than himself, died in 1784.

10, p. 156. "Dathi, nephew to Niall by his brother Fiachra, was the last pagan king of Ireland, and reigned twenty-three years. His proper name was Fearadhach; but he was surnamed Dathi, from the rapidity with which he used to put on his armor: 'Daitheadh,' in the Irish language, signifying swiftness. He pillaged Gaul and carried his arms even to the Alps, where he was suddenly struck dead by a thunderbolt from heaven, thus expiating his sacrilegious cruelty to Parmenius, a man highly distinguished for sanctity, A.D. 428, A.M. 5627." — From *Cambrensis Eversus, seu Potius Historica Fides in Rebus Hibernicis Giraldo Cambrensi Abrogata*, by Gratianus Lucius (John Lynch), 1662.

11, p. 162. Sarsfield commanded a division of the loyal

Irish forces, nominally under King James the Second, at the battle of Boyne Water, 1688. "Change kings," he said in the bitter moment of his defeat, "and let us fight it over." He went into exile with the other Irish nobles and gentry, (the first of the never-forgotten "Wild Geese" of popular ballads), entered the service of France, and closed a most chivalrous career by a death on the battlefield of Landen (1693), where Luxembourg was victorious over the Allies. This most remarkable of the *Farewells* to the Earl, at the time of his going over sea, is full of unique and vehement expressions, which will repay the study of any humanist.

12, p. 166. "Donegal Castle," says Thomas D'Arcy M'Gee, "the chief seat of the princely family of the O'Donnells, stands now in ruins, in the centre of the village of the same name, at the head of Donegal Bay. It was built in the fifteenth century, and shows, even in its decay, royal proportions." It now belongs to the Lord Arran. Hugh the Red O'Donnell, Earl of Tyrconnell, fired it before leaving for Spain, A.D. 1607, lest it should be defiled by English occupation. The original poem must have been composed by some one perfectly familiar with the castle interior, prior to the Elizabethan wars, but the bard's name has not come down to us. He may even be the same to whom we owe *Roisin Dubh*.

13, p. 173. *Kathaleen Ny-Houlahan* and all the poems which follow, in this division, except the *Dirge for O'Sullivan Beare*, are relics of the Jacobite insurrections, chiefly of the immortal '45. "The King's son" is, of course, Prince Charles Edward. "The Irish Jacobites claimed the Stuarts as of the Milesian line, fondly deducing them from Fergus." The popular lyrics of that day, which were written in Ireland, in the English tongue, have the tang of novelty and wildness, but lack, in many instances, the odd exquisite tenderness of *Shule Aroon* and *The Blackbird*. As in Scotland, some of the sweetest of the Jacobite lyrics date from a gen-

eration or more after the event ; so nothing written under the Georges, who hated "boets," is so good an English poem out of Ireland as its modern successors : Callanan's spirited *Avenger*, or *The Wild Geese*, and a few other lyrics of Katharine Tynan (Mrs. Hinkson). The Gaelic compositions of the loyalists were very much more numerous, and of superior quality. Mangan translated a great many, among which I have endeavored to choose the best. They cannot for a moment, however, be compared to the simpler, briefer songs floating contemporaneously about the Highlands of Scotland. Mr. Edward Hayes, in the introduction to his collected *Ballads of Ireland*, remarks : " The poets of the last century looked forward more to a religious than to a political deliverer, whence their effusions were more dynastic than national, more Jacobite than Irish. When they sang of Ireland, it was in connection with the fallen dynasty. They longed for the union of Una and Donald, in other words, Ireland and the Stuart. They addressed their country as a beloved female, to disguise the object of their affection. Sometimes it was Sabia from Brian Boru's daughter of that name ; sometimes it was Sheela Ni Guira, or Cecilia O'Gara ; Maureen Ni Colleenan, Kathleen Ny Houlahan, Roseen Dhuv ; more frequently Granu Weal, or Grace O'Malley, from a princess of Connaught who rendered herself famous by her exploits and adventures. The poet beheld his beloved in a vision, and wandering in remote places, bewailed the suffering of his country. He rests himself beneath the shade of forest trees, and seeks refuge from his thoughts in calm repose. There appears to his rapt fancy one of those beautiful creatures we have named. Language is not sufficiently copious to describe all her charms. He addresses her, and asks her if she be one of the fair divinities of old, or an angel from heaven to brighten his pathway through life and restore peace to his afflicted country. She replies that she is Erin of the Sorrows, once a queen, but now a slave. After she enumerates all the

wrongs and iniquities which she is enduring, she prophesies the dawn of a brighter day, when her exiled lord shall be restored to his rightful inheritance. This was the style adopted by most of the Jacobite poets of the last century, to express the sufferings of their country and their hope of deliverance from oppression. We question if imagination could originate a style of song more pathetic in its allusions or more powerful in its results."

Not every one will agree with Mr. Hayes' estimate. The allegorical style surely seems to readers of to-day a most mistaken, far-fetched, and ineffective device. It led to indescribable sameness and conventionality, exactly what was to be expected of the curious brood of pedants who gave Ireland her Della Cruscan eighteenth-century literature. Says Mrs. Hinkson very neatly, in her preface to *Irish Love Songs*: "Some of these were laborers, some peddlers, some hedge-schoolmasters, —all alike touched with genius, wit, fire, and learning (for it was a time when the Irish peasant had the dead languages at his fingers' ends); all alike scamps, in a simple and virtuous age, and adding to their scampishness a Voltairean spirit much out of its due time and place." Scotland had also her lesser dash of pseudo-classicism, which went far towards ruining some of her invaluable Prince Charlie songs. Of "the lad that I'll gang wi'," the romantic lad with "phillabeg aboon the knee," we are told in almost the next breath that "you'd tak him for the god o' war." In Egan O'Rahilly's *Vision*, rendered by Mangan, who reported only what he found, the distressed virgin, the Brightest of the Bright, has crystals for eyes, a mirror for a bosom, crimson glories for cheeks; and she looked, as was inevitable, like "a daughter of the Celestial Powers." There is no "highfalutin" of this sort in *Kathaleen Ny-Houlahan*. The ballads under that name are almost as good as the group entitled *Roisin Dubh*, which are a century and a half earlier. From John Mitchel we

receive an explanatory passage regarding them, and Mangan's felicitous handling of them. "In these translations, as well as those from the German, Mangan did not assume to be literal in words and phrases. Nor, indeed, in general, was there any uniform unvarying version of the original poems, to which he could be literal, because they lived, for the most part, only in the memories of the illiterate peasantry; and Gaelic scholars, in their researches for authentic originals, usually found three or four different ballads, on the same subject and under the same name, having some lines and verses identical, but varying in the arrangement; always, however, agreeing in cadence and rhythm, in general scope and spirit. To this scope and spirit he was always faithful."

Here is a second *Kathaleen*, from our translator's pen, in *The Poets and Poetry of Munster*:—

In vain, in vain we turn to Spain : she heeds us not,  
Yet may we still, by strength of will, amend our lot ;  
O yes ! our foe shall yet lie low ; our swords are drawn  
For her, our queen, our Caitilin Ny Uallachain.

Yield not to fear : the time is near. With sword in hand  
We soon will chase the Saxon race far from our land.  
What glory then to stand as men on field and bawn  
And see, all sheen, our Caitilin Ny Uallachain !

How tossed, how lost, with hopes all crossed we long have been !  
Our gold is gone ; gear have we none, as all have seen.  
But ships shall brave the ocean wave, and morn shall dawn  
On Eiré green, on Caitilin Ny Uallachain !

Let none believe this lovely Eve outworn or old ;  
Fair is her form, her blood is warm, her heart is bold.  
Tho' strangers long have wrought her wrong, she will not fawn,  
Will not prove mean, our Caitilin Ni Uallachain !

Her stately air, her flowing hair, her eyes that far  
Pierce thro' the gloom of Banba's doom, each like a star ;  
Her songful voice that makes rejoice hearts grief hath gnawn,  
Prove her our queen, our Caitilin Ni Uallachain !

We will not bear the chains we wear, not bear them long !  
 We seem bereaven, but mighty heaven will make us strong :  
 The God who led thro' Ocean Red all Israel on,  
 Will aid our queen, our Caitilin Ni Uallachain !

A word as to Ny-Houlahan. "Ny" is the correct Gaelic substitute, in a female name, for the tribal "Mac" or "O." As Mr. Conor MacSweeney reminds his countrywomen : "A lady who writes 'O' or 'Mac' to her name calls herself 'son' instead of 'daughter.' What should we say of a Hebrew lady who would write herself 'Esther, son of Judah?' I therefore advise every Irish lady to substitute 'Ni' (pronounced 'Nee') for 'O' or 'Mac.' . . . In Irish we never use 'O' or 'Mac' with a woman's name ; and why must it be done in English?"

Among the love-names for Ireland just quoted from Hayes' *Ballads* are several which have been from the beginning associated with the most beautiful wild old airs : notably *Moirin Ni Chuillionain* (Little Mary Cullenan) and *Sigbile Ni Gara* (Celia O'Gara). To the second version of *Roisin*, quoted in the introduction to this book, "Since last night's star," etc., belongs also a strangely lovely air in A minor, full of rushing sixteenth notes, which may be found, unharmonized, in *The Poets and Poetry of Munster*. "The Silk o' the Kine," one of the most touching phrases on the lips of the Irish of bygone rebellion, has been exquisitely celebrated by Mr. Aubrey de Vere.

"The silk o' the kine shall rest at last :  
 What drove her forth but the dragon-fly ?  
 In the golden vale she shall feed full fast,  
 With her mild gold horn, and her slow dark eye."

There is no "genuine" Irish Jacobite poetry more quiet, tender, and convincing than that.

14, p. 174. William Heffernan, surnamed Dall, or the Blind, of Shronehill, County Tipperary, wrote this poem just

before Culloden. *The Song of Gladness*, which follows *Welcome to the Prince*, has its justification in the extraordinary energy of the close.

15, p. 179. "Shieling," defined as a poor cabin or shelter for a shepherd or fisher, is familiar to ballad-lovers, and occurs contemporaneously with Lochiel's muster of the Camerons : —

"Then up the wild Glennevis,  
And down by Lochy's side,  
Young Donald left his shieling,  
And Malcolm left his bride."

16, p. 182. Geoffrey Keating, born in 1570, died in 1650.

17, p. 184. "The words to this spirited air are the production of a violent Jacobite. By leathering away with the wattle, he implies his determination to decide political differences by an appeal to physical force. The wattle was a stout cudgel or *ailpin*." Cotter has the courage to be antiquarian and national in his pretty poem ; and yet he cannot leave out the She

— "that launched a thousand ships,  
And burnt the topless towers of Ilium."

18, p. 190. Muircheartach Oge, of the Barony of Beara, called in English Murtagh, or Mortimer, The Young O'Sullivan, was a disaffected chieftain descended from Donal of the Ships, who occupied himself ten years after Culloden in raising troops (the celebrated Wild Geese) for France, the ally of the Stuarts against England. He had served with distinction at Fontenoy, and was received with open arms by the people of the south, on his return to recruit for the French cause. His story, a strange, grimly romantic one, was cut short by his betrayal and assassination in 1756. This is the substance of Mangan's note, too long for incorporation. The Gaelic manuscript of the poem was found in



Castletown about 1825 by Jeremiah Joseph Callanan, who made a close translation of it. Compare with Mangan's more imaginative passage (in the last stanza but one) : —

“ Dear head of my darling !  
 How gory and pale  
 These aged eyes see thee  
 High-spiked on the jail !  
 That cheek in the summer sun  
 Ne'er shall grow warm,  
 Nor that eye e'er catch light  
 But the flash of the storm.”

The *caoine* is a fine specimen of the terrible Hebraic invective of the race ; the original is supposed to be the composition of The O'Sullivan's old nurse, upon whose lips the lament is placed. The passages in parentheses may be taken to be the customary chorus of women, as at a “wake,” repeating, with swayings of their bodies, the melancholy word and tone of the keener. Mangan has used his favorite refrain here with ghastly effect. The penultimate stanza, the weak one among the nine, seems to have had no warrant in the original, as it is not in the Callanan transcription.

19, p. 199. Something in the impression of heard music which this lyric leaves, reminds one of Wordsworth's *Highland Reaper*. It may be worth while to append Rückert's poem, for the pleasure of comparison. Which is lovelier, it would take Apollo, expert among Sicilian reeds, to decide.

#### DAS EINE LIED

Ich weiss der Lieder viele  
 Und singe was ihr liebt.  
 Das ist wohl gut zum spiele,  
 Weil Wechsel Freude giebt ;  
 Doch hätte Lieb' und Friede  
 Genug an einem Liede,  
 Und fragte nicht, wo's hundert giebt.



Jüngst sah ich einen Hirten  
 Im stillen Wiesenthal,  
 Wo klare Bächlein irrt  
 Am hellen Sonnenstrahl.  
 Er lag am schatt'gen Baume,  
 Und blies als wie im Traume  
 Ein Lied auf einem Blättlein schmal.

Das Lied, es mochte steigen  
 Nur wenig Tön, hinauf,  
 Dann musst' es hin sich neigen  
 Und nahm denselben Lauf.  
 Es freut' ihn immer wieder;  
 Gern hätt ich meine Lieder,  
 Geboten all dafür zum Rauf.

Er blies sein Lied, und liess es,  
 Und sah sich um in Hag,  
 Hub wieder an und blies es,  
 Ich schaute wie er lag:  
 Er sah bei seinem Blasen  
 Die stillen Lämmlein grasen,  
 Und langsam fliehn der Sommertag.

20, p. 211. "Battle droops his clotted wing": a line worthy of Keats.

21, p. 215. This poem of Herder's is founded on a fragment of folk-lore very general in Europe, and at its best, perhaps, in the wonderful Breton ballad of *Seigneur Nann*. All English readers will recall it as nearly identical with *Lord Ronald my Son*, although this has no direct mention of supernatural interference, nor is its "true love" a fay.

22, p. 220. There is no line-repetition in *Wenn die Rosen blühen*. It ends: —

"Ewig nun genesen,  
 Wirst du neu erglühn  
 Wirst ein himmlich Wesen,  
 Wenn die Rosen blühn."

23, p. 220.

UHLAND'S FRISCHE LIEDER

Wie wenn ein Strom, ben lange  
Ein Winter eingezwängt,  
Im Lenzhauch mit Gesange  
Verjüngt die Fesseln sprengt ;

Wie wenn nach Jahr und Tagen  
Ein Baum, einst blüthenreich,  
Fängt Blüthen an zu tragen  
Den alten gänzlich gleich ;

Wie wenn ein Wein, verschlossen  
Im Fasse Jahre lang,  
Kommt wieder frisch geflossen,  
Ein dustender Gesang ;

Wie wenn auf einmal wieder  
Ein rief'ger Dom ertönt,  
Dem Ohr, an Vogellieder,  
Seit Jahren nur gewöhnt,

Schien mir's, ist mir's geworden,  
Als jüngst nach Jahren lang,  
Du Hauptst von Liederorden !  
Frisch tönte dein Gesang.

24, p. 221. Emerson's

"Then will yet my Mother yield  
A pillow in her greenest field,  
Nor the June daisies scorn to cover  
The clay of their departed lover,"

is in the same key as these stanzas of Kerner's *Sängers Trost*.  
Mangan has somehow missed the simplicity of the ending : —

"Blumen, Hain, und Ane,  
Stern und Mondenlicht,  
Die ich sang ! vergessen  
Ihres Sängers nicht."

25, p. 226. *The Ride Around the Parapet* is placed as the first of a group of five which are called translations, for mere convention's sake. They are, rather, voluntaries of an extraordinary sort on German themes; elaborate, jocose embroideries on provided cloth-of-frieze. The Lady Eleanora von Alleyne is a very magnificent presentation, circa 1840, of the New Woman. Compare

“Nun warte bis ein andrer kommt wieder, der es kann,  
Das Fraulein Kunigunde von Kynast!  
Ich habe schon Weib und Kinder, und werde nicht dein Mann,  
Das Fraulein Kunigunde!”

with Mangan's extremely pointed and *espiègle* enlargement of it:—

“Mayest bide until they come, O stately Lady Eleanor,  
O Lady Eleanora von Alleyne!  
Mayest bide until they come, O stately Lady Eleanor!  
And thou and they may marry; but for me, I must not tarry:  
I have won a wife already out of Spain,  
Virgin Lady Eleanora,  
Virgin Lady Eleanora von Alleyne!”

And again, the pleasing specifications about the forfeit, at the close, are hardly to be traced to the plain statement:—

“Müss er mit Geld sich lösen wenn er nicht küsst die Braut,  
Das Fraulein Kunigunde!”

Besides, the whole much-extended poem is crowded throughout with enriching detail of all kinds, and every new stroke tells. “It is a very fine ballad,” Rückert might say, “by my friend Mangan.”

26, p. 234.

#### SEHNSUCHT

(CONRAD WETZEL)

Kennt ihr das schöne Eiland  
Weit draussen im Meer so wüst,  
Wo der Morgenrothe Reigen,  
Und der Sonnen Ausgang ist?

O dahin möcht ich ziehen  
 Dahin steht mir mein Sinn !  
 Dahin wer kann mich führen ?  
 Wer weiss den Weg dahin ?

27, p. 235. August Kopisch : *Des Kleinen Volkes Ueberfahrt.*

28, p. 238. Enough has been said of this fantasia in the Introduction, as also of Rückert's beautiful ghazel which follows it.

29, p. 244. For

“Ambi nemici sono, ambi fu servi,”

this is certainly a clouded rendition.

30, p. 248. This translation of the eternally-translated *Dies Irae* occurs in Mangan's rendering of *Das Nordlicht von Kazan.*

31, p. 253. The Karamanian Exile. See the note on Joseph Brenan.

32, p. 260. Relic of Prince Bayazeed. The second line is almost too reminiscential of Keats' dying saying: “I feel the flowers growing over me.” The third and fourth refer to a very ancient custom mentioned by most Oriental poets: the bell rung for the starting of the caravan, and the cry raised of *Ar Rabil, Ar Rabil!* (Depart, Depart).

33, p. 260. A late corroboration of the known opinion of dear old Roger Ascham, as also of Dr. Johnson.

34, p. 268. Says Thomas Fuller: “Keep a commonplace book: for he that with Bias carries all his learning about him in his head, will utterly be beggared and bankrupt, if a violent disease, like a merciless thief, should rob and strip him.”

35, p. 270. In this ghazel, the second line and the line next to the last foreshadow Arnold's great and well-known two: —

“Alone the sun arises, and alone  
 Spring the great streams.”

36, p. 277. "Dree," to endure, to undergo; a word set down in the dictionaries as "Scotch or obsolete," but in common use with Mangan and other Irish poets, and with most people in Ireland, to this day.

37, p. 278. The recurrent sounds of *ā*, *ă*, *ä*, *â*, in this concluding stanza of a splendid poem, are atrocious, and show an almost inconceivable carelessness on the part of their author. They are hardly outdone by that musical passage in *How we brought the Good News from Ghent to Aix*:—

"Rebuckled the cheek-strap, chained slacker the bit!"

38, p. 286. *Jealousy* is very close akin to Victor Hugo's *La Voile*; somewhat less so to Mr. Charles De Kay's powerful *Ulf in Ireland*.

39, p. 289. *The Time of the Barmecides*. Rejected readings:—

Line 1, "Mine eyes are dimmed, my hair is gray."

Line 15, "And a barb as fiery as any I know."

Lines 17, 19, 27, 29, "'Twas a long, long time back, long ago."

Line 33, "Whose armor glowed like gold."

Mangan was always an admirable reviser.

40, p. 297. This and the following poem were written some time before the first great Irish famine (1847) drove countless immigrants to America. A number of Mangan's exhortations were proved prophetic by the event, in this as in other matters.

41, p. 304. First printed in *The Irish Tribune*, in 1848, hence named by the author *The Tribune's Hymn for Pentecost*.

42, p. 309. A couple of stanzas from a poem by John Edmund Reade are worth printing in connection with Pompeii.

"O thou Vesuvius! that risest there,

Image of drear eternity, alone

Seated in thy own silent fields of air;

Titan, whose chainless struggles have but shown

The annihilating powers are still thine own,  
 Parent of lightnings, and the tempest's shroud,  
 Crowning, or round thy giant shoulders thrown  
 In majesty of shadow, ere the cloud  
 Break on the nether world in fulmined wrath avowed.

Grave of dead cities thou ! thy heart is fire,  
 Thy pulse is earthquake ; from thy breast are rolled  
 The flames in which shall penal earth expire ;  
 Thy robes are of the lava's burning fold,  
 Thine armed hand the thunderbolt doth hold,  
 Thy voice is as the trump that calls to doom ;  
 Creator and destroyer ! who hath told  
 What world of life lies buried in thy womb,  
 What mightiest wrecks are sunk in thy absorbing tomb ?"

This is the very twin of Mangan's poem, and both echo Byron to the life.

43, p. 310. The fourth line in the fifth verse of *Pompeii* seemed to have suffered from the printers. There are but two possible readings ; that given in the text, and one only less likely : —

"Like blasted wrecks, bestrew that mortar plain."

44, p. 311. From the German of "Selber" !

45, p. 313. From "Cascagni," forsooth. Rejected readings (from a shorter version) : —

Line 1, "The life of life is gone and over."

Lines 37, 38, "Go thou, exulting in thy guilt,  
 And weave thy wanton web anew."

And the last stanza : —

"But where shall I find rest ? Alas,  
 When first the winter wind shall wave  
 The pale wildflower, the long dark grass,  
 Above mine unremembered grave !"

This poem has borne two other titles : *To Frances*, and *The Last Reproach*. Its author was apparently also under the

Shakespearean shadow in those days. "Less in anger than in sorrow" is popularly supposed to spring from *Hamlet*, Act I., Scene v., and

— "smile and smile  
Yet be all dark and false within,"

has possibly been heard of before, in the second scene of the same act.

46, p. 318. Written in 1832, in Mangan's twenty-ninth year. Entitled variously by him *The Dying Enthusiast*, *The Dying Enthusiast to his Friend*, *The Dying Enthusiast to his Child*.

47, p. 319. This touching poem, addressed to a friend who had not then attained his majority, marks for us one of Clarence Mangan's moods of bitter awakening and self-reproach, — moods often renewed, often outworn, as years passed. He revered Brennan, not without reason. Born in Cork, in 1828, "all of Shelley's soul" got fitly and promptly into the National Movement twenty years later, and suffered for it in Kilmainham Jail. In the October of 1849, Brennan went to New York, and did some journalistic work there; his marriage followed, with a sister of his old colleague, John Savage, and presently he moved to New Orleans, attaching himself first to the staff of *The New Orleans Delta*, then becoming editor of *The New Orleans Times*. He died in May of 1857, at Shelley's own early age. Joseph Brennan's verses have never been collected, but they have singular beauty; one of them, a pæan for Charlotte Corday, is sometimes met with in the anthologies. It is to him, in a measure, that we Americans owe one of our few fine sectional songs: *Maryland, my Maryland*. The following extract is copied from *Fifty Years among Authors, Books, and Publishers*, by Derby, New York, 1884: "James Ryder Randall, who wrote *Maryland, my Maryland*, when a young man was a schoolmaster in Louisiana, but was born

in Baltimore, Maryland. . . . The editor of *The New Orleans Delta*, who encouraged young Randall's efforts at poetry, gave him a volume of the poems of James Clarence Mangan, and the weird melodies and wasted life and melancholy death of the unfortunate Irish poet made an indelible impression on his mind. He was especially struck with the rhythm of one poem, purporting to be translated from the Ottoman, and entitled *The Karamanian Exile*. One day, while the melody of *The Karamanian Exile* was running through his brain, Mr. Randall rode to the Mississippi River, seven miles distant, to get his mail. Among it was a copy of the *Delta* containing an account of the passage of the Massachusetts troops through Baltimore, and of the riot which occurred there, which he read with the deepest interest. Agitated by the thrilling news, indignant at what he considered an outrage on his native city, and anxious about relatives and friends, there was no sleep for Randall that night. For some unaccountable reason, as he kept thinking of these events in Baltimore, the stirring melody of *The Karamanian Exile* seemed to run through his head ; so much so, that he appeared possessed with its spirit, and in a moment the whole scheme of his *Maryland, my Maryland* was formed in his brain. He sat down at his desk, and in less than an hour the poem was completed. Next day he read it to his scholars, the most of whom were Creoles, and it fired them to such a degree of enthusiasm that he decided to send it to the *Delta* for publication. Its success was electrical."

The "book of Mangan's poems" mentioned as given to Mr. Randall must have been Mitchel's edition, printed just before Brennan's death. Up to that very time, *The Karamanian Exile* would have been inaccessible, except in newspaper or manuscript form. The author of *Maryland, my Maryland* is still living.

48, p. 321. "From the Irish."

49, p. 326. Another reading (September, 1835): —



“Spirit of wordless Love, that in the lone  
Bowers of the poet’s museful soul doth weave  
Tissues of thought, hued like the robes of eve  
Ere the last glories of the sun have shone !  
How soon, almost before our hearts have known  
The change, above the ruins of thy throne,  
Whose trampled beauty we would fain retrieve  
By all earth’s thrones beside, we stand and grieve !  
We weep not, for the world’s bleak breath hath bound  
In triple ice the fountains of our tears ;  
But ever-mourning Memory thenceforth rears  
Her altars upon desecrated ground,  
And always, with a low despairful sound,  
Heavily tolls the bell of all our years.”

The altered version (1841) is much superior to this one ; but neither sonnet has the octette perfect in form, as the sixth, seventh, and eighth lines seem to have changed places. It is singular that Mangan’s seeing eye (a “regardful” eye, as he might have preferred to call it) allowed the irregularity to pass uncorrected.

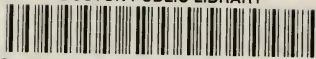
50, p. 332. There is a truly Slavic gloom about this too intense little poem.

51, p. 337. The “man made by sudden qualm ill” is too bad ! We have reason to fear, too, that it was intentional. It is not the only grotesque touch in a most original lyric.





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