THE POEMS OF THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH. ILLUSTRATED, PP. 1-252

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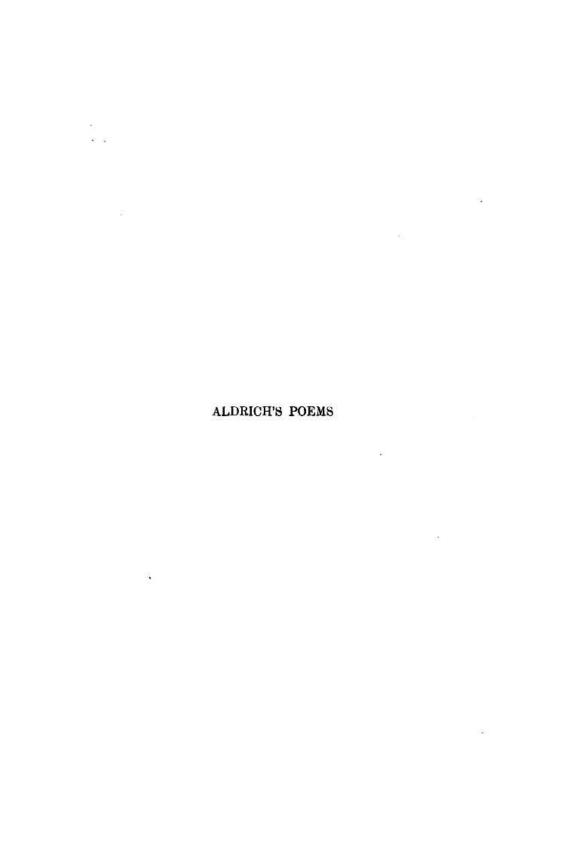
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J.M. Almich.



THE POEMS

THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH

ILLUSTRATED

THE PAINT AND CLAY CLUB



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1882

FLOWER AND THORN.

FLOWER AND THORN.

TO L. A.

I.

At Shiraz, in a sultan's garden, stood A tree whereon a curious apple grew, One side like honey, and one side like rue.

Thus sweet and bitter is the life of man,

The sultan said, for thus together grow

Bitter and sweet, but wherefore none may know.

Herewith together you have flower and thorn, Both rose and brier, for thus together grow Bitter and sweet, but wherefore none may know.

11.

Take them and keep them, Silvery thorn and flower, Plucked just at random In the rosy weather — Snowdrops and pansies, Sprigs of wayside heather, And five-leaved wild-rose Dead within an hour. Take them and keep them:
Who can tell? some day, dear,
(Though they be withered,
Flower and thorn and blossom,)
Held for an instant
Up against thy bosom,
They might make December
Seem to thee like May, dear!

I. CLOTH OF GOLD.