

LAYS AND LYRICS

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Lays and Lyrics by Mrs. J. K. Lawson

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MRS. J. K. LAWSON

**LAYS
AND LYRICS**

LAYS *and* LYRICS

By
MRS. J. K. LAWSON



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1913

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PART I.

THE EVOLUTION OF WOMAN

I.

UPON a gentle slope in Eden old
Slept Adam, first of men;
(His origin by Darwin has been told,
But this the task of quite another pen,
To tell how woman was evolved—and when).

When Adam first to consciousness awoke,
The wonder of it all!
The sky—the sea—the birds that silence broke,
The trees so green and tall,
The fragrant peace soft brooding over all!

The animals, strange, restless, breathing things,
With liquid eyes;
That in his steps with wistful following
Came fitfully; the bright sun-glancing wings
Cleaving the skies.

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The wonder of it all was so entrancing,
Held with its spell,
He saw the lambkins in the meadows prancing,
The merry gnats in the long sunbeams dancing,
Brooks in the dell.

The beauty of the vision filled his soul,
Man's hour had come!
Suns set, and night unfurled her starry scroll,
Thought dawned and through his brain began to
roll,
But he was dumb.

His hunger he appeased with pleasant fruit,
But in his heart
There woke another hunger, voiceless, mute
As is the music in an untouched lute
Lying apart.

He was alone and felt his loneliness;
Only in sleep
He knew a something sweeter far than this,
A full completeness he did, waking, miss,
But could not keep.

THE EVOLUTION OF WOMAN

To explain this strange phase of his history;
When his first sigh
Was heard in Heaven's great whispering-gallery,
Which still surrounds earth with its mystery,
One spake on high:

"Lo! I am Love, and for my love prepare
Creatures to fill my sole necessity;
Because of this, my love, they are and were
All things that live on earth, in sea and air,
But chiefly man—heir of eternity.

"Go therefore thou, my gentlest spirit mild,
Thou of the beauteous brow and loving eye;
In Eden's garden hover near my child,
My first of men, born of the ages wild,
Unto him minister—in sleep be nigh."

This was the presence—subtle, unconfined,
Which Adam felt.
The unconscious influence of mind on mind
Causing him with longing undefined
To glow and melt.