EARTH'S VOICES, TRANSCRIPTS FROM NATURE, SOSPITRA, AND OTHER POEMS

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Earth's Voices, Transcripts from Nature, Sospitra, and Other Poems by William Sharp

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WILLIAM SHARP

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AND OTHER POEMS.

WILLIAM SHARP.

'I bear the immense charm ever all the world of the return to juy.'

Transcrib Democracy and,

LONDON: ELLIOT STOCK, 6s, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C. 1884.

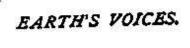


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EARTH'S VOICES.

I. HYMN OF THE FORESTS.



E are the harps which the winds play,
A myriad tones in one vast sound
That the earth hearkens night and day—
A ceaseless music swaying round

The whole wide world, each voiceful tree Echoing the wave-chants of the sea.

For even as inland waves that moan But break not 'midst the unflowing green Our trees are: and when tempests groan And howl our frantic boughs between, Our tumult is as when the deep Struggles with winds that o'er it sweep.

'Neath bitter northern skies we stand, Silent amidst the unmelting snows, Gaunt warders of the desolate land: Silent, save when the keen wind blows The drifting wreaths about our feet, Then moan we mournful music sweet.

Earth's Voices.

Or in vast ancient woods of beech
Far south we make Spring's dearest home
The haunt of myriad songsters, each
A living flow'r made free to roam
From bough to bough, and thence we send
A forest-music without end.

'Neath tropic suns and ceaseless glow
With orient splendours we are filled:
'Midst Austral solitudes we grow,
Where seldom human voice has thrilled:
And ever and where'er we rise
We chant our ancient harmonies.

For aye the sea sings loud and long
In strange and solemn mystery
A wonderful transmitted song—
The echo of all history—
This song o'er all earth's lands we sing
While round the circling seasons swing.

II. THE HYMN OF RIVERS.

Through all the wide lands of the earth We journey onward to the sea:
Swift from the hills that give us birth
In melting snows we race in mirth
Down through green meadows joyonsly,
Through wood and dale and desert lands,
Where bridges span our floods with bands
And cities foul our many strands.