

**EARTH TRIUMPHANT:
AND OTHER TALES IN
VERSE**

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Earth Triumphant: And Other Tales in Verse by Conrad Aiken

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CONRAD AIKEN

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EARTH TRIUMPHANT



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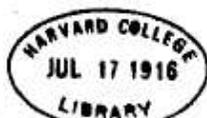
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THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
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To My Wife.

*Whatever loveliness is in this music,
Whatever yearning after lovely things,—
Whatever crying after stars, in darkness,
Whatever beating of impeded wings:*

*Whatever climbing of the rose to sunlight,
Sweet-hearted laugh from the dark blind sod:
Whatever madness of the sea for moonlight,
Whatever yearning of the good to God:*

*All that is beautiful, and all that looks on
beauty*

*With eyes filled with fire, like a lover's eyes:
All of this is yours; you gave it to me, sun-
light!*

*All these stars are yours; you gave them to
me, skies!*

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FOREWORD.

Not to disarm criticism, but out of justice to myself, I feel compelled to say here, in view of the fact that I am certain to be called an imitator of Masefield, that before I had ever heard of Masefield I was experimenting with narrative poems of modern daily life. In one case I had even employed the octosyllabic couplet (used so successfully in "The Everlasting Mercy") to tell the love-story of an ordinary clerk.

It will be obvious, of course, that Masefield has influenced me. I found in him many valuable hints toward a method for the work I wanted to do. If with some of his method I unconsciously picked up also some of his mannerisms, that was to be expected, and I can only hope that these echoes