A DUET WITH OMAR

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A Duet with Omar by Albert J. Edmunds & James E. Richardson

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ALBERT J. EDMUNDS & JAMES E. RICHARDSON

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By .
ALBERT J. EDMUNDS

With a supplement by James E. Richardson

"Christ was a missionary to this island of savages in the cosmic sea."

(RICHARD HODGSON to the author, April 1, 1898)

PHILADELPHIA: INNES & SONS, 129-135 NORTH TWELFTH STREET 1012

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Copyright, 1913, by ALBERT J. EDMUNDS

The author is under a pledge to the Simplified Spelling Board of New York to espouse their cause. See Buddhist and Christian Gospels, Prolegomena 4.

Clarendon type is used to denote oracles and scripture.

453 E24 due

DEDICATED TO MY
JOINT-AUTHORS
ELIZABETH AND MARY INNES
AGED VI AND VIII

"I'm rooting around in the Bible all the time, like you!"

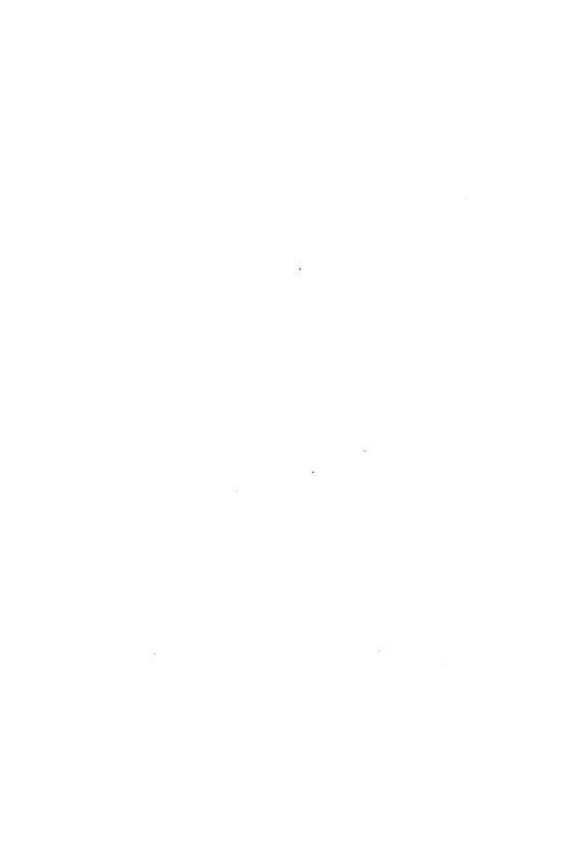
Also to My Sincere Critics

ESPECIALLY

JAMES E. RICHARDSON,
ARTHUR AND MADELEINE BRADLEY,

JEANNETTE I. WESTCOTT

AND ELIZABETH H. FRISHMUTH



A Duet With Omar

CANTO I.

1

In days of eld Imagination reigned,
On angel wings were heights divine attained,
But now we rear cathedrals out of fact:
My heaven-wooing verse by Truth is trained.

2

No priest or wizard, murmuring for hire, Can wrap the spirit in the final fire, But line by line and here and there we glean The straws that blaze and all the soul inspire.

3

I saw, saith Swedenborg, no earthly hand Write on a temple for the future planned: The things of Faith were heretofore believed: Now it is lawful that we understand. The Seer of Skara died, and one year more Beheld the tempest of a world-wide war: Strange goblins in the Bay of Boston danced, Like Northern lights upon a cloudy shore.

5

The wine that Dogberry and Shallow drank, Who scoft at Bunyan by the Ouse's bank, Had turned to fire and lighted earth and sky, Burning conceits that unto heaven stank.

в

The planet rolled convulst: not Brandywine Nor Lexington alone was made divine, But Dogger Bank, Azores, Conjevaram, Till rainbow Stripes and Stars began to shine.

7

In wilder tempest, lo! a Darwin born,
To teach mankind the meaning of the morn;
MAX MÜLLER followed with the Sacred Books
And saved religion from an age of scorn.

We saw the wrecks of a dissolving Rome And Alexandria besprent with foam, Dasht from a wave of Oriental faith: We traced a live enigma to its home.

9

Known at Benares, Balkh and Samarkand, A story went that all could understand: How that a hermit, in the noonday heat, An opening heaven saw, with angel band.

10

White robes were waved, as in celestial dance, Unearthly music did the charm enhance; The seer inquired what joy the angels knew, Then deeply heard in Himalayan trance:

11

The Buddha who shall be, the pearl unpriced, Is born with men to be the Hindu Christ, In Sākya town and realm of Lumbini: Therefore we glory with a joy sufficed.