

VERSES ORIGINAL AND TRANSLATED

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Verses original and translated by Arthur Compton Auchmuty

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ARTHUR COMPTON AUCHMUTY

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AND TRANSLATED**

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ORIGINAL AND TRANSLATED

BY

ARTHUR COMPTON AUCHMUTY



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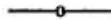
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*The profits (if any) of the sale of this volume
will be added to the Fund for the Restoration of
the Parish Church of St. Leonard's, Blunsdon,
in the County of Wilts.*

A. C. A.

THE FAIRIES.



SINCE 'tis so sweet, amid life's tossing tide,
To hear the voice that down the ages rings
With stories from the world's fresh morningtide
Brought late to us in pleasant murmurings ;
O pour from out his everlasting springs,
Spirit of Poesy, thy full-flowing stream,
While unused hands attempt the varied strings,
And strive to wake some echo of that theme,
Which "Fancy's child" once shaped in a short
summer dream !

Our way will lead us where the world is fair
And glad and pleasant; far from uncouth sight
Of grief and misery and sin, or where
Aught is at enmity with what is bright;
From all that pains the eye remov'd quite;
'Mong water'd vales, and o'er the moorland high,
In woods where summer pours her full delight;
Though all earth's happiest scenes our way will lie,
To see the Fairies sport in mirth and revelry.

O best loved hour,—when the last rosy bars
Fade from the sun-track, and the day is gone;
Ere yet beneath the scanty-sprinkled stars
Night trails her blackest clouds and walks alone!
Forth comes Titania from her flowery throne;
Over the slumbering world she takes her way,
All through the dewy twilight, wafted on
By many a fleet-wing'd elf and many a fay,
Each to his separate lot assign'd of work or play.

For now the Fairy herald's call is heard
Shrilly,—yet voiceless but to those whose ears
Expect the sound : anon each flower is stirr'd
Within its tender lap : then forth appears,
Soon as the cry each ready inmate hears,
From bed of scarlet, blue, or snowy white,
Where every drowsy bud its head uprears,
A goodly band, in colours gaily dight,
And all go forth together to the cool sweet night.

Clad then with robes of many a various hue,
Stol'n from the rainbow, bright and manifold,
Leads forth king Oberon his airy crew,
To where in some sweet garden they may hold
Wise counsel, and in turn their deeds unfold,
What secret they have heard from lover's tongue,
What each intends ; and when the tale is told,
Perchance they bid some silvery tones, outrung
From valley-lilies' bells, make music to their song.