

**IDYLLS OF
ARCADIA: LUCIUS
AND AMANDA**

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Idylls of Arcadia: Lucius and Amanda by John Freeman

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JOHN FREEMAN

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IDYLLS OF ARCADIA.



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LUCIUS AND AMANDA.

BY

JOHN FREEMAN.

LONDON:

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT & CO., LTD.,

1901.

Dedication.

To her who hath long held my truest soul
A captive to those subtle charms
Which she doth sweet display in every mood ;
And hath full oft my poor heart set
Aheat, and my dull pulse with passion stirred
By the rare beauty of her ways—
I proffer this, my modest tale in song,
The sum of long spent happy toil.

IDYLLS OF ARCADIA.

LUCIUS AND AMANDA.

CANTO I.

Introduction.

The throbbing day in eve's soft bosom hush'd,
Came peaceful night; the stars shone forth
With modest radiance o'er field and mead,
And lane that wound by hill and dale;
Then Boreas blew in gusts of fitful ire,
With weird shriek through twiggéd elm
And antlered oak—else all was drear and still.
Heedless of fleeting time or roaring wind,
'Mid the night's starlit gloom and calm,

IDYLLS OF ARCADIA :

Strayed by the banked and hedgéd ways
A maiden fair, of stature slight,
Yet in whose every movement was displayed
A dignity and courtly grace.
And by her side, a friend of sterner mould,
Who, passing happiest days of youth,
At length to man's estate had full attained ;
For though his step was light, alert,
His laughter full of heart and joyous, gay,
And his whole manner seemed to be
Rather of ripening youth than that of man.
Yet did his ambrosial beard,
And rich auburn hair that loosely fell
In wavéd tresses o'er his neck,
And the lines that frequent marked and seared
His bold and heightened brow, tell well
That time of life was now attained, when age,
Experience and toil had laid
A staying hand upon the spirit free,
And withered up the bounteous springs

LUCIUS AND AMANDA.

That bubble o'er in days of youth, when care
Is not, and pleasure rules the roast.

Love's Interrogation.

The hours of autumn's eve wore slowly on :
Each to the other now had told
Such joys and sorrows as the past had known,
And of the present pleasures sweet
They had discoursed in happy, careless vein ;
Then tenderly, like lovers true,
Each touched on things of soul, of subt'ler kind,
Till heart and pulse, stirred by passion's flame,
Urged life's blood faster through their veins.
Came silence then, pensive, almost sad,
For now each breast held hidden deep within,
Some secret sweet, yet prone to pain.
Thoughts came and went 'mid the wind's song,
As they strode onward, musing the while ;
Till of a sudden, she of fair mien,
Peering through eve's sweet starry light,