

LYRICAL POEMS

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Lyrical poems by Alfred Austin

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ALFRED AUSTIN

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BY

ALFRED AUSTIN

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DEDICATION

TO LADY WINDSOR

I

*WHERE violets blue to olives gray
From furrows brown lift laughing eyes,
And silvery Mensola sings its way
Through terraced slopes, nor seeks to stay,
But onward and downward leaps and flies;*

II

*Where vines, just newly burgeoned, link
Their hands to join the dance of Spring,
Green lizards glisten from cleft and chink,
And almond blossoms rosy pink
Cluster and perch, ere taking wing;*

III

*Where over strips of emerald wheat
Glimmer red peach and snowy pear,
And nightingales all day long repeat
Their love-song, not less glad than sweet,
They chant in sorrow and gloom elsewhere;*

DEDICATION

IV

*Where, as the mid-day belfries peal,
The peasant halts beside his steer,
And, while he muncheth his homely meal,
The swelling tulips blush to feel
The amorous currents of the year ;*

V

*Where purple iris-banners scale
Defending wall and crumbling ledge,
And virgin windflowers, like and frail,
Now mantling red, now trembling pale,
Peep out from furrow and hide in hedge ;*

VI

*Where with loud song the labourer tells
His love to maiden loitering nigh,
And in the fig-tree's wakening cells
The honeyed sweetness swarms and swells,
And mountains prop the spacious sky ;*

VII

*Where April-daring roses blow
From sunny wall and sheltered bower,
And Arno flushes with melted snow,
And Florence glittering down below
Peoples the air with dome and tower ;—*