

**THE LEGEND OF
SAINT FRIDESWIDE,
AND OTHER POEMS**

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The legend of saint Frideswide, and other poems by Florence Hayllar

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FLORENCE HAYLLAR

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THE LEGEND
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SAINT FRIDESWIDE

AND OTHER POEMS

BY
FLORENCE HAYLLAR

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1904

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THE LEGEND OF
SAINT FRIDESWIDE

TOLD BY ONE OF HER NUNS

I. *How SAINT FRIDESWIDE founded her
NUNNERY.*

THE stream of the Thames is swift and sheen;
The vale of the Thames is broad and green:
A long summer's day a man may roam
Through the fields that were Frideswide's home.
Where the oxen come to the lapping ford
By the city with grain and armour stored,
'Neath the English sky and its rainswept blue,
Steadfast and fair Maid Frideswide grew.
Rich and high was her father's hall,
Thronged with noble and priest and thrall;
And deep with sweet blossom his meadows
 smiled,
The land's glad dower for his only child.
Ah! but she turns her from these away—
High heart and tender—to muse and pray!
Robes of scarlet or linen white,