FOREST BUDS, FROM THE WOODS OF MAINE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649586332

Forest Buds, from the Woods of Maine by Florence Percy

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FLORENCE PERCY

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THE WOODS OF MAINE.

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Mrs. Elizabeth 11. Allen

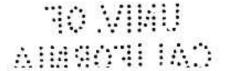
BOSTON:
BROWN, BAZIN & CO.
PORTLAND:
FRANCIS BLAKE.
1856.

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Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1856, by
LIZZIE A. C. TAYLOR,
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of Massachusetts.

Printed by Bazin & Chandler, 37 Cornhill, Poston.



TO ALL WHO LOVE ME.

Yz who have watched me since I chose The path which leads me fiere to-day, Of like a child who Maying goes, Tripping and stumbling on the way, -Ye whose sweet words of love and trust Have cheered me when my faith was dim, Till Hope rose smiling from the dust And sung anew her triumph-hymn, -And ye whose hands in friendship true Have never yet been clasped in mine, -One moment, while I bring to you The wreath which I have dared to twine. No garland faint with rich perfumes To cloy the sense and charm the brain, But simple buds and half-oped blooms Born in the rugged woods of Maine.

I know that 'mid the gorgeous flowers

Which happier hands have culled away

From Poesy's enchanted bowers,

The garland which I bring to-day

Is but a wreath of rugged stems

Tied with a few imporfect blooms,

Beside the orange-groves' pure gems

And the magnolia's rich perfumes,

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I fling no rare exotics down,
Brothers and sisters at your feet,
The dandelion's golden crown,
The carry snow drop, low and sweet,
The buttercup with sultry hue,
The wild-rose sought by dainty bees,
Rich clover-blooms and violets blue,
And the pink snow of orchard-trees
Are here; — the arbutus that hides
Among dead leaves and sprouting brakes, —
Sweet nameless flowers from river-sides
And lilies from our northern lakes.

And as a traveller far away From northern scenes and northern loves, Grows faint with breathing day by day The fragrant breath of spicy groves -Grows tired of blossoms rich and bright, Such as a tropic summer knows, And welcomes with a deep delight The perfume of a sweet home-rose, -Or pained by the bewildering songs Of eastern birds with gorgeous wings, Turns wearily away and longs To hear the strain our robin sings, Mayhap some hearts will turn away From songs more lofty and divine, And tired of a sublimer lay Will listen for a while to mine.

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