

FAND AND OTHER POEMS

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Fand and Other Poems by William Larminie

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WILLIAM LARMINIE

**FAND AND
OTHER POEMS**

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BY
WILLIAM LARMINIE,

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Five money.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
FAND	1
CONSOLATION	30
UNEXPECTED	32
THE DYING SEA-GULL	33
THE NAMELESS DOON	35
SILENCE	36
MORNING	37
"ART THOU NOT SAD, O SEA?"	38
GHOSTS	41
DROPS OF ETERNITY	42
SUNSET AT MALINMORE	43
LONDON	45
NIGHT IN JUNE	58
SCIENCE AND PREDICTION	59
MOYTURA	60

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24

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NOTE.

It is perhaps advisable that I should here, though in the briefest manner, call attention to the fact that in this volume I have frequently, and in various forms, regular and irregular, employed assonance instead of rhyme. It ought hardly to be necessary, in these days of metrical experiment, to apologize for an attempt to introduce into English poetry a style of versification which, in the hands of Irish Gaelic bards, both ancient and modern, has shown itself to be in no way inferior to rhyme. But I must explain that only in one instance have I attempted to reproduce an actual Irish form; and that irregular forms both were and are unknown to Gaelic poetry.

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FAND.

"TELL me that tale of Cuhoolin, Emer, reveal it to me,
As once was thy promise : 'tis thou that alone canst
relate it aright :

How, from the wiles of the beautiful Fand, the immortal,
the goddess, thou settest him free,
Leading him back, by the lure of thy love, to be chief
of the heroes of Eirë for ever."

Thus spake the Bard of Coonalni, agèd and grey, to the *Gaithrie*
lady,

The fair-browed Emer, agèd and grey :

Who answered him : " Yea, it is meet that I tell it,
And thou shalt record it,

That a mem'ry to all generations the tale of his tempt-
ing be."

This was the tale the fair-browed Emer told.

Midsummer's fairest day was near its end,
The hot land panting for the cool of night,
When from the doon Cuhoolin wandered forth,
And I beside him, tow'rd the evening star.
We came to the lake's brink and ling'ring stood