

**AN EPIC OF  
WOMEN  
AND OTHER POEMS**

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An epic of women and other poems by Arthur William Edgar O'Shaughnessy

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**ARTHUR WILLIAM EDGAR O'SHAUGHNESSY**

**AN EPIC OF  
WOMEN  
AND OTHER POEMS**



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I Dedicate this Book

TO MY FRIEND,

JOHN PAYNE.

775450

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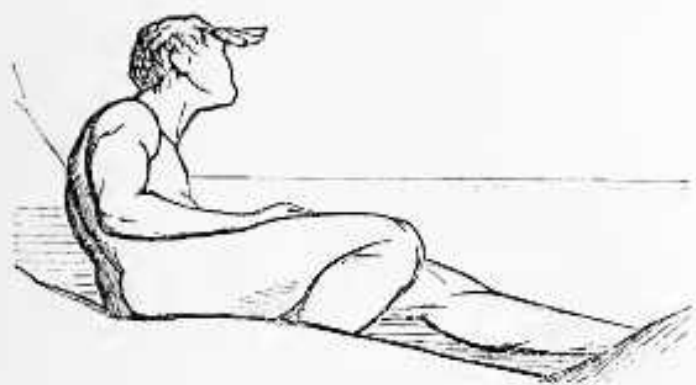
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## EXILE.

Des voluptés intérieures  
Le sourire mystérieux.

VICTOR HUGO.

A COMMON folk I walk among ;  
I speak dull things in their own tongue :  
But all the while within I hear  
A song I do not sing for fear—  
How sweet, how different a thing !  
And when I come where none are near  
I open all my heart and sing.

I am made one with these indeed,  
And give them all the love they need—  
Such love as they would have of me :  
But in my heart—ah, let it be !—  
I think of it when none is nigh—  
There is a love they shall not see ;  
For it I live—for it will die.

And oft-times, though I share their joys,  
And seem to praise them with my voice,  
Do I not celebrate my own,  
Ay, down in some far inward zone  
Of thoughts in which they have no part ?  
Do I not feel – ah, quite alone  
With all the secret of my heart ?

O when the shroud of night is spread  
On these, as Death is on the dead,  
So that no sight of them shall mar  
The blessed rapture of a star—  
Then I draw forth those thoughts at will ;  
And like the stars those bright thoughts are ;  
And boundless seems the heart they fill :