

**SONGS OF THE  
HEIGHTS AND DEEPS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649294381

Songs of the heights and deeps by Roden Noel

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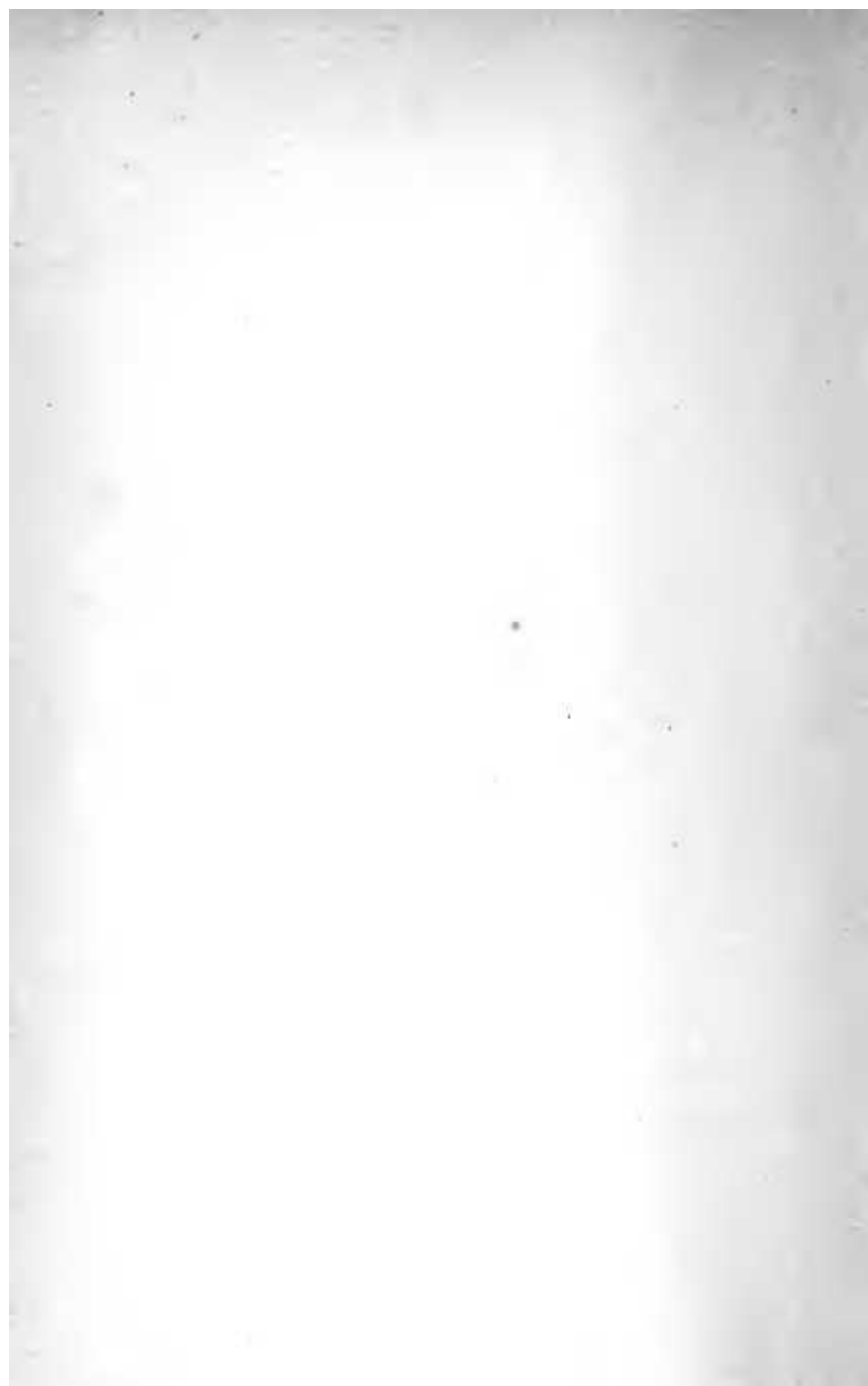
**SONGS OF THE  
HEIGHTS AND DEEPS**



S O N G S  
OF THE  
HEIGHTS AND DEEPS.

BY THE  
HON. RODEN NOEL,  
AUTHOR OF  
"A LITTLE CHILD'S MONUMENT," "THE HOUSE OF KAVENSBURG,"  
"RED FLAG," "LOVINGSTONE IN AFRICA."

LONDON:  
ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.  
1885.



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Dedicated  
to  
MY SISTER.

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## A LAY OF CIVILIZATION : OR LONDON.

### PROLOGUE.

CITY of light and shadow, height and deep,  
Yawning abysm sundering rich and poor !  
One upon velvet pile or marble floor  
Feasts, while another starves, whom even sleep  
Flieth as God-abandoned ; children weep  
Around their mother ; at the rich man's door  
She cursing God and man dies : ye who keep  
High festival with morning, temple, tower,  
Broad palace, rather in congenial night  
Avoid ashamed the level eyes of light !  
Cower hidden ! royal river in your pride,  
With world-wealth mantling on your stately tide,  
Steal muffled in deep gloom ! slow bells be tolled !  
Thou on the proud dome, glistening cross of gold,  
Thy life is changed to hard death bought and sold.  
Art thou the hilt of a death-drinking sword  
Plunged in Earth's heart by some infernal Lord ?

Brethren of Him who fainted on the wood,  
What help is found in yon devouring rood ?

What help ? what hope ? a sceptred Woman bows  
Under a lowly lintel, and none knows ;  
Humbly she helpeth bitter loathly need,  
Beareth the burden, dons the lowly weed.  
Babes the high honour of their trust confer  
Upon this royal lady, and by her  
Perchance the city may be saved from fire,  
That lurid lurks, and threatens to make it one red  
funeral pyre !

---

UNDER awakening woods I heard the birds  
With no reserve unbosom all their joy :  
Even as a beam reveals the limpid deep  
Of a pure pool, sweet song revealed their heart,  
A shadowless illimitable bliss  
Of innocent love ; the joy of wakening woods  
Welled over in soft frills of fairy leaves,  
Glossy and tender flakelets of green light,  
Infolded mutually ; fair forest aisles  
Dawn to leaf-laughter silent and serene ;  
One would surmise the new-born delicate leaves  
Thronged to the ends of all the twigs to hear  
Innumerable bird-song, called from sleep  
By many a plumed Orpheus ; their blithe notes