

**AFRICAN ITEMS: A  
VOLUME OF VERSE**

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African Items: A Volume of Verse by Perceval Gibbon

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**PERCEVAL GIBBON**

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VOLUME OF VERSE**



# AFRICAN ITEMS

A Volume of Verse

BY  
PERCEVAL GIBBON



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

1903



## DEDICATION

**D**EAR MADONNA, *this to thee,*  
*This my little book of rhymes,*  
*Memories of urgent times,*  
*Let me offer gratefully.*

*First-born of my fantasy,*  
*A little thing, but still mine own,*  
*Low of voice, of timid tone,*  
*A child of my captivity.*

*Lady, judge it tenderly;*  
*'Tis a palmer's offering,*  
*'Tis a sacrifice I bring*  
*Thus to my divinity.*

SOUTH AFRICA,  
May, 1903.





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ULTIMA THULE.

OVER the rolling ocean's rim,  
    Away below the line,  
Where fathoms deep the ghoul-fish swim,  
And the tiger-shark, gray, gaunt and grim,  
    Basks with his pilots nine,  
We know of an island, you and I,  
A gossamer cloud in a summer sky,  
Where the dreams of faery do not die,  
    And the isle is yours and mine.

Girt with a strip of silver sand,  
    And a filigree fringe of brine,  
Is a land where the virgin lilies stand,  
A choir of vestals, hand in hand,  
    Knee-deep in jessamine ;  
Where the roses riot o'er pastures broad,  
And the ferns foregather on shaded sward,  
Where the kingly bee and the butterfly lord  
    Sit throned on the fragrant vine.