

LOVE-SONGS

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Love-Songs by George Barlow

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GEORGE BARLOW

LOVE-SONGS

POETICAL WORKS

BY

GEORGE BARLOW.

- POEMS AND SONNETS. In Three Parts. 1871.
A LIFE'S LOVE. 1873.
UNDER THE DAWN. 1875.
THE TWO MARRIAGES: a Drama. 1878.
THROUGH DEATH TO LIFE. 1878.
THE MARRIAGE BEFORE DEATH, AND OTHER
POEMS. 1878.
TIME'S WHISPERINGS. 1880.
-

"Mr. Barlow writes not merely fluently but with a command of both language and thought. . . . His verse is full of promise."—*Westminster Review*.

"Mr. Barlow has not only a fluent pen but an indubitable gift of beautiful and harmonious expression. He is no careless workman, trusting to the force of genius alone and neglecting the strictness of method and the grace of form. Indeed, grace and finish are the conspicuous and prevailing qualities of his poetry."—*Literary World*.

"Mr. Barlow's chief excellence is the way in which he weaves the world of nature external to him with the fancies of imagination and the feelings of the human heart; hence it is that his poetry—which we can cordially commend to all lovers of the muse—is full of similes drawn from the world of external nature."—*Standard*.

LOVE - SONGS.

BY

GEORGE BARLOW,

AUTHOR OF "TIME'S WHISPERINGS," "THROUGH DEATH TO
LIFE," ETC.

"If 'poets are all who love, who think great truths and tell them,
and the truth of truths be love,' then Mr. Barlow is a poet of no
mean order."—*British Quarterly Review*.



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1880.

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LOVE-SONGS.

DAISY'S THIMBLE.

I.

O dear small thimble
Which fingers nimble
Have used so daintily, scores of times,
I hold you lightly,
Shining so brightly,
And think of your wearer in far new climes,
When these same fingers
O'er which love lingers,
Will turn the pages no more of my rhymes.

II.

These hands, here growing
Like blossoms blowing,
So white and tender, so soft and still,
Youth's golden flowers
In life's first hours,
In meadow and coppice, by stream and rill,
Have gathered: now never
For ever, for ever,
Our English roses their touch will thrill.

III.

Good-bye, good-bye to you,
 My verses sigh to you,
 O dainty finger that wearest the shell,—
 The silver agile
 Dear thimble fragile
 Whose daily glitter I know so well;
 See how I take you
 For her sweet sake, you
 Small silver token, which unseen fell.

IV.

Fell from her finger,
 Fated to linger
 Henceforth for ever in secret lair;
 Yea, when the owner,
 Unconscious donor,
 Is breathing the arid and Eastern air,
 Thou shalt be sign to me,
 Breathe a soft line to me,
 Memory of hours and flowers that were.

V.

The fingers that used thee,
 Daintily bruised thee
 With soft sweet pressure of snow-white tips,
 Will no more glitter
 Amid the litter,
 The spangled litter of work-room snips—
 They soon the roses
 That Love discloses
 Must gather, growing as grow the lips.