

# **A BOOK OF VERSES**

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A Book of Verses by W. Gershom Collingwood

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**W. GERSHOM COLLINGWOOD**

**A BOOK  
OF VERSES**



A BOOK OF VERSES.

BY  
W. GERSHOM COLLINGWOOD.

GEORGE ALLEN,  
SUNNYSIDE, ORPINGTON, KENT.  
1885.

ANS4722

TO MISS SUSANNA BEEVER

7

*May is coming to array  
All your dale for holiday;  
She will tint with cunning brush  
Larch and oak and thorn and rush;  
Sweep the fields, and furbish up  
Celandine and buttercup;  
Rub the lichens bright, and deck  
With moss-cushions every beck;  
Rake the snow-drifts out that cram  
Deep-delved ghylls of Wetherlam;  
Garland all the crags with heath,  
Fringe with fern the screes beneath;  
Clip the clouds, and chain the gales;  
Launch the boats, and hoist the sails;  
Then she'll clap her hands, and call  
All the world to festival.*

*Ah! but what can May devise  
To delight your weary eyes?*

*Wearying of your hermitage,  
As a song-bird of its cage;  
Shut from May and all her shows,  
With your window curtained close,  
Leaving but a hand-breadth free  
For the laurel's greenery,  
For the azure hills and lake  
To peep in on you, and break  
That sad gloom where you must shun  
The violence of the unwelcomed sun.*

*There from morn to eve you sit,  
And the trailing shadows flit  
From the floor, to rise and float  
In shapes that none but you may note.  
Memories come of lives outspent,  
Sorrow past, and past content;  
Footfalls of departed feet  
Still resound in your retreat.*

*May that makes the world without  
Riotous with song and shout,  
May must hush her boisterousness,  
Sleek her hair and smoothe her dress,  
Trip demurely through the gate  
Of the porch before the Thwaite;*

DEDICATION.

v

*Stand awhile beside your door,  
Till the shadows on the floor  
Cease their talk with you, and then  
Say with reverence, " Once again  
May has come to you, to say  
God give you a glad May-day !  
Love to you from all the birds  
That you love; from flocks and herds  
You protect; from cats and mice  
Who find your home their Paradise !  
Love to you from many friends,  
Greeting you from all the ends  
Of the wide, wide world ! And look !  
Here's a foolish little book  
One that met me made me bring  
For a May-tide offering.  
Saying, there are songs in it  
You have loved and he has writ.  
So farewell again, for May  
Is a busy girl to-day !"*



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