

**FRAGILIA
LABILIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649336487

Fragilia Labilia by John Addington Symonds

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JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS

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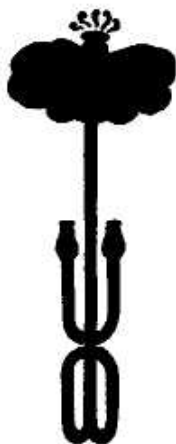
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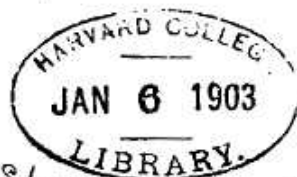
FRAGILIA LABILIA

BY

JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS

PORTLAND MAINE PUBLISHED
BY THOMAS B MOSHER AT XLV
EXCHANGE STREET MDCCCII

204.25.5/5



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FOREWORD

FRAGILIA LABILIA — an Old World title of a little song-garland — is not to be found among any of the late John Addington Symonds' published poems.¹ Privately printed for its author's own use it remains unmentioned in bibliographical lists, nor has it ever appeared in the almost inevitable book sale which takes place as soon as a well known author dies. A rare distinction even if there were no other!

Mere rarity, however, is not all; hence, in a series devoted to the reissue of inaccessible books, especially in connexion with *Primavera*, a slender sheaf like *Fragilia Labilia*

¹ The exact title reads as follows: *Fragilia Labilia* By John Addington Symonds (written mostly between 1860 and 1862) Twenty-five Copies printed for the Author's use. 1884. Octavo, white vellum wrappers. Pp. 40.

FOREWORD

should find welcome and acceptance. For along with that other and later series of hauntingly beautiful "Poems by Four Authors" there is in these pages just the same youthful cry of forlorn Youth,—the subdued but acute sense of all things fair and fading. A minor music, it may be, nay, is, but loved and remembered because of the vanished hand that noted it down. It was the prelude to Symonds' life-long search for the effective word, a search he never lived to complete to his own satisfaction, but in it we hear the boy's clear voice and feel that he had already come to know what he afterwards compressed into a single poignant line,—

All life is but a wandering to find home.

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