

**SHAMROCK AND WATTLE
BLOOM: A
SERIES OF SHORT
TALES AND SKETCHES**

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Shamrock and wattle bloom: a series of short tales and sketches by Marion Miller

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MARION MILLER

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BLOOM: A
SERIES OF SHORT
TALES AND SKETCHES**

Shamrock and Wattle Bloom :

A SERIES of . . .

SHORT TALES
and . . .
SKETCHES.

BY . . .

MARION MILLER

(Authoress of "Songs from the Hills.")



Melbourne :

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1900.

PR
6021
K757A

Francis M. O'Flaherty
20 Manton St.
Bunbury, Kt.

DEDICATED

TO

Him who, in my hour of need,
Hath proved himself a friend indeed!



1592465

PREFACE.

WHILE placing this unpretentious collection of short tales and sketches before the Australian people, I take the opportunity of thanking them for their kindness to me in the past, and for their patronage of my first book, "Songs from the Hills."

An Australian by birth, I have not roamed far from my own native mountains and valleys. The advantages of travel have not been mine, and circumstances have forced me to move in the one narrow groove. Therefore, I claim your kindly indulgence for all wants and defects in the work here submitted.

If a tragic note be too often struck, the cause is not far to seek. My childhood was spent in a once-flourishing mining town in the heart of the Dividing Range, where tragedies were of appallingly frequent occurrence. Old memories still cast their gloomy spell over me, and their shadows on prose and verse.

Chide me not harshly
That sad is the theme
Over and over
Of dream after dream.
Fain would I ring thee
From Fancy's blue height,
Liquid and golden
Bell-notes of delight!

The curlew can tell not
Why sad is her cry,
Though the sound of her mourning
Heart-pierces the sky.

The bird that is silent
Till others are still,
Then croons to the midnight
From some lonely hill,

Knows never a reason
Why, pensive, alone,
She chants in the moonlight
Her weird monotone !

THE AUTHORESS.

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