

**GOD'S GARDEN**

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God's Garden by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

# **GOD'S GARDEN**



# GOD'S GARDEN

BY

HEARTSEASE



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1887

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## EPISTLE TO THE READER.

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THE object of this little work is to constitute a Manual of the most important Graces, and to promote their culture, in view both of the present probation and of the blessed hereafter.

The treatment is in general didactic, but simile and figurative expression are introduced in furtherance of the main purpose. The book will be, it is humbly thought, quite suitable for the family circle, and as a gift to either young men or maidens, and the tone has been sought to be made pure as befits the theme.

The writer embraces this opportunity of thanking his select list of subscribers for encouragement whilst venturing on this maiden effort at publication in verse, and trusts that if the treatment be novel, it may also prove pleasant, and a means of blessing to the readers, whether they be lovers of *Nature* only, or of *Revelation* too,

HEARTSEASE.

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## GOD'S GARDEN.

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### I.—PRELUDE.

God hath His Garden, bearing precious fruits,  
Which He aye tendeth with a heart of love,  
His goodly trees have each one at their roots  
The soil—probation—He prepares above.  
Like rain doth tribulation on them fall,  
But through the clouds His sun doth rainbows form.  
The winds may rock, when young, the saplings small,  
But thus they stronger grow ere blows the storm ;  
The snows of sorrow, drifting, hide them deep,  
But frosts shall never nip their tender bud,  
For in winter He gives their life sap sleep,  
Till His springtime dawn when blossoms the wood :—  
The Lord of the garden knoweth full well  
How to tend His fruits until they excel.

God's garden is a grand domain. 'Tis full  
Of pleasant trees, and bushes, herbs and flowers,  
Has noble heights and lowly depths. Men cull  
All glorious fruits within its pleasant bowers.  
Upon the outer gate clear there is writ,

"No trespassers may enter here." Man-soul  
A garden is enclosed. None enter it  
Unbid, or stay. 'Tis ruled by self-control.  
Close by the inner gate there always stands  
Conscience, the sensitive plant, on her guard,  
God's own vicegerent, mistress of the lands,  
Who neither man nor devil doth regard.  
Whoso dismisses her, the garden throws  
Wide open to all sorts of thieves and foes.

Passing the double gates which fence the park,  
Two noble trees on either side the sward,  
Justice and Mercy, close together, mark  
As they grow fair, aspiring heavenward.  
Their trunks are like two goodly pillars reared,  
And far their branches spread, whose pleasant leaves,  
And flowers, and fruit, regale the eye, and neared,  
Delight the senses, as odours it receives.  
Opposite stand the kindred trees of Grace,  
Sincerity and Honesty they're named.  
These watchful sentries dominate the place,  
And like their neighbours, are fair twins proclaimed.  
Their roots strike deep, as rise their crests above,  
Like oaks, their branches spread, and stately move.

These double guards give dignity and grace,  
And grand appearance to the access gates,

So that even those who only pass the place  
Would fain find time to gaze, and lingering wait.  
The glorious trio—Hope, and Faith, and Love,  
Next in a sweet profusion grow, aspire,  
And climb, in beauty evergreen above.  
These are not trees, but plants which all require  
Large space to spread. Like laurels of the soul,  
With blossom fair, they give complexion bright  
To hill and plain, so that the landscape's whole  
Gains beauty from their loveliness and light.  
They dwell together, never parted are,  
And shine with lustre visible afar.

Next we behold the Tropics of the soul,  
For Zeal and Courage grow in sunny clime.  
These are the stately palms, whose upright bole  
Is crowned with spreading leaves where summer-time  
Extends throughout the year. Their undergrowth  
Even in the desert sands finds water out.  
Like banian trees, this pair are nowise loth  
To shoot forth, up, down, and all about.  
And prickly flaming cactus aye is found  
Where these twain thrive. The southern blaze at noon  
Affords them suited air, and at a bound  
Promotes their vigorous growth, so that they soon  
Take root, and bring forth seed which winds disperse,  
Winged seeds, whose germs e'en blustering storms will  
nurse.