

AFTERTHOUGHTS

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Afterthoughts by Joseph Truman

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JOSEPH TRUMAN

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BY

JOSEPH TRUMAN

From Fall and from Springtide of many a year,
Gathered together, green leaves and sere.

London

MACMILLAN AND CO.

AND NEW YORK

1889

23492.29

Harvard College Library.

Nov. 14, 1891.

LOWELL BEQUEST.

THE pieces following are all of mine which I care that friendly eyes should see, or indulgent minds remember. Some have appeared in *Macmillan's Magazine*; others are here for the first time printed; and one is taken from a volume of early indiscretion long ago repented of. This, entitled "Elleray," is revived with pleasure (before the 15th of the April of last year, I should have said with pleasure *unqualified*), because it was chosen for praise by Mr. Matthew Arnold. "I have not often," he wrote once, "read anything more true and more happily expressed, and I wish all who knew Wilson could see it. It is a pity you did not send the lines to *Blackwood*." And at another time, "Your 'Elleray' is still in my memory, and will always remain there." And

while recalling with a feeling of elation, which will, I hope, be pardoned, these favourable words, I cannot let slip the opportunity for acknowledging my boundless inward obligations to this most stately, most touching of modern poets, from whose negations and melancholy even there floats to my ear the note of a saner hope than can be gathered from the confused hypothetical discourse of all the clashing theologies.

J. T.

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DREAMS

NAY! let them dream their dream of perfect love ;
It is the sweetest feeling, the most fair,
This flower-like joy that blooms in the soft air
Of youth's bright heart, with faith's blue heaven above.

Breathe naught of disenchantment ; do not bring
Misgiving to the bliss of blended souls,
The while life's brimming river golden rolls
Through primrose-lighted uplands of the Spring.

The blossoms of Eternity lie furled
In the dim kindling buds of dreams that keep
A fluttering pulse within Time's broken sleep ;
Dreams are not idle ; dreams have saved the world.