

**THE BALANCE OF
PAIN: AND
OTHER POEMS**

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The Balance of Pain: And Other Poems by *Australie*

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AUSTRALIE

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BY

AUSTRALIE.



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THE BALANCE OF PAIN.

SCENE I.

THEODORE.

PAIN and still pain! pain at each turn of being!
Pain at life's opening and the last dark hour!
Pain in the flesh and in the soul's vague
depths—

Pain as the law of growth—the due of change—

Pain as the needful attribute of life.

Where shall it end? With body and with form?

Not so, e'en joy itself must come to man

Temper'd with pain; beauty, the more intense,

The keener, thrills us with the pleasure-pang.

Music and love, ay, holiness itself,

Hold pain for ever in their essence bound.

From first to last no hope and no escape!

Yet could I bear it, were the throes assign'd

In equal measure to each human soul.

But 'tis not thus; on one the woes are heap'd,

While others pass with strange immunity

From all save that engrain'd in very living.

It is a grand injustice of the Lord

In whom, alike, all move and have their being.

B.