

**IN MY LADY'S PRAISE: BEING
POEMS, OLD AND NEW, WRITTEN
TO THE HONOUR OF FANNY,
LADY ARNOLD, AND NOW
COLLECTED FOR HER MEMORY**

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In My Lady's Praise: Being Poems, Old and New, Written to the Honour of Fanny, Lady Arnold, and Now Collected for Her Memory by Sir Edwin Arnold

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SIR EDWIN ARNOLD

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IN MY LADY'S PRAISE

BEING

Poems, Old and New

WRITTEN TO THE HONOUR OF

FANNY, LADY ARNOLD

AND NOW COLLECTED FOR HER MEMORY

BY

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD, M.A., K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

AUTHOR OF "THE LIGHT OF ASIA," ETC., ETC.

LONDON

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“Good Night! not Good-bye!”

(Her last words, March 15, 1889.)

*I saw my Lady die ;
And He, who oft-times cruel is, dark Death,
Was so deep-sorrowful to stay her breath,
He came, all clemency :*

*He would not let her know ;
So well he loved the bright soul he must take
That, for our grieving, and her own fair sake,
He hid his shaft and bow :*

*Upon her lips he laid
That “kiss of God” which kills, but does not harm ;
With tender message, breathing no alarm,
He said “Be unafraid !”*

*Sorrow grew almost glad,
Pain half-forgiven, parting well-nigh kind,
To mark how placidly my Lady’s mind
Consented.—Ready-clad*

*In robes of unseen light
Her willing soul spread wing ; and, while she passed,
"Darling ! good-bye !" we moaned—but She, at last,
Murmured "No !—but Good-Night !"*

*Good-night ! then !—Sweetheart ! Wife—
If this world be the dark time, and its morrow
Day-dawn of Paradise, dispelling sorrow,
Lighting our starless Life.*

*Good-night !—and not Good-bye !
Good-night !—and best "Good-morrow !" if we wake ;
Yet, why so quickly tired ? Well, we must make
Haste to be done, and die !*

*For dying has grown dear
Now you are dead, who turned all things to grace ;
We see Death made pale slumber on your face ;
Good-night !—But is Dawn near ?—*

*Flowers rich of scent and hue
We laid upon your sleeping-place. And these,
Flowers of fond verse, which once had gift to please—
Being your own—take, too !*

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