SONGS OF THE DAWN, AND IRISH DITTIES

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Songs of the dawn, and Irish ditties by Teresa Brayton

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TERESA BRAYTON

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AND

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BY
TERESA BRAYTON

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SONGS OF THE DAWN.

INSCRIPTION.

- UNTO my own, the Irish, I send with smiles and tears
- This little book of melodies caught from the flying years;
- With all the love within me and all the best I know I'd call them back o'er many a track to lands of long ago.
- The cuckoo's call in Springtime, the thrush's song at morn,
- The rainy winds that whispered across the ripening corn,
- The little daisies clustering where all their kindred sleep,
- I'd bring them back o'er memory's track, though seeing were to weep.
- For O, my kindred Irish, more tears than smiles we know
- Whose feet across the nations still wander to and fro.

But maybe when the wistful shades from those old scenes are drawn

You'll hear through all the homeward call of Ireland's Songs of Dawn.

SONGS OF THE DAWN.

"SING us a song of the Dawn," we cried,
"For night drags wearily by

With never a star and the winds blow wide Through the leaden depths of the sky."

Then one with a dream in his eyes arose, "I'll chant ye a rhyme," said he,

"Of the Irish dawnings of gold and rose Remembered by you and me."

Silvery shimmer of crystal dews, murmur of darkling woods,

Stir of a wet wind moving abroad in the high hills' solitudes:

Flutter of wings in the hawthorn hedge, one golden note long drawn,

Then, hush, hush, 'tis the thrush, aye 'tis the thrush and the Dawn.

Dawn, dawn, from the doorway of night she slips,

Dawn, dawn, dawn, God's mystic hush on her lips,

Slow moving on to her woodland herald with glimmering veils undrawn,

Over the edge of the whirling world she cometh, the Dawn, the Dawn.

Dripping with honey and fragrance, fraught with the passion of life

With the ache of the soul's deep places, the call of a new day's strife,

With tears and laughter and longing for things from our ways withdrawn,

While the stars swing back from her misty track, she cometh, the Dawn, the Dawn.

Oh, sure if the earth were piled this hour o'er our senseless forms of clay

Somehow we would thrill to the pulse of her, our Irish Dawn o' the day,

We would feel and stir in our sleeping where the curtains of death are drawn

When the wee brown thrush on the hawthorn bush sang out--" 'tis the Dawn, the Dawn."

We would stir and wake for her beauty's sake for the gold of the highest star

Hath never a wonder warm and close as the hues of her coming are,

And the Angel of rest at His Lord's behest where the astral shades are drawn

Would whisper,—" Hush, 'tis the little brown thrush and the Dawn, Dawn, Dawn."