# DRAMATIC IDYLS, FIRST SERIES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649542598

Dramatic Idyls, First Series by Robert Browning

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### ROBERT BROWNING

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## DRAMATIC IDYLS

first Series

BY

ROBERT BROWNING

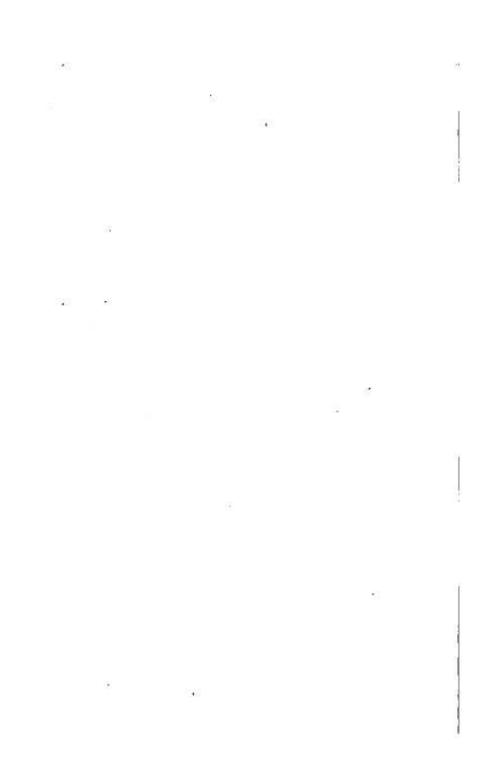
SECOND EDITION

LONDON SMITH, ELDER, & CO., 15 WATERLOO PLACE 1882

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## MARTIN RELPH

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#### MARTIN RELPH.

- My grandfather says he remembers he saw, when a youngster long ago,
- On a bright May day, a strange old man, with a beard as white as snow,
- Stand on the hill outside our town like a monument of woe,
- And, striking his bare bald head the while, sob out the reason—so!

#### MARTIN RELPH.

- If I last as long as Methuselah I shall never forgive myself:
- But—God forgive me, that I pray, unhappy Martin Relph,
- As coward, coward I call him—him, yes, him! Away from me!
- Get you behind the man I am now, you man that I used to be!
- What can have sewed my mouth up, set me a-stare, all eyes, no tongue?
- People have urged "You visit a scare too hard on a lad so young!
- You were taken aback, poor boy," they urge, "no time to regain your wits: