

**DRAMATIC IDYLS,  
FIRST SERIES**

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Dramatic Idyls, First Series by Robert Browning

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**ROBERT BROWNING**

**DRAMATIC IDYLS,  
FIRST SERIES**



# DRAMATIC IDYLS

*first Series*

BY

ROBERT BROWNING

*SECOND EDITION*

LONDON

SMITH, ELDER, & CO., 15 WATERLOO PLACE

1882

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MARTIN RELPH





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!*

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 :