

**POEMS OF MANY
YEARS AND MANY
PLACES. [1881]**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649674671

Poems of Many Years and Many Places. [1881] by William Gibson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM GIBSON

**POEMS OF MANY
YEARS AND MANY
PLACES. [1881]**

Martin S. D.
11/21/79
2/2/81

POEMS

OF

MANY YEARS AND MANY PLACES

BY

WILLIAM GIBSON

COMMANDER U. S. NAVY

AUTHOR OF "A VISION OF FAIRY LAND AND OTHER POEMS"

+

Was eine lange, weite Strecke
Im Leben von einander stand,
Das kommt nun unter Einer Decke
Dem guten Leser in die Hand.

5
2
Doch schäme dich nicht der Gebrechen,
Bollende schnell das kleine Buch;
Die Welt ist voller Widerspruch,
Und sollte sich's nicht widersprechen?

Goethe.

BOSTON

LEE AND SHEPARD PUBLISHERS

NEW YORK CHARLES T. DILLINGHAM

1881

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PERSEPHONE	9
SIBYLLA CUMANA	15
ALF AND ALFHILDA	23
THE DOVES OF ST. MARK	35
LA FESTA DELLO STATUTO	37
HOLY WEEK IN ROME	40
THE BELLS OF FLORENCE	43
"THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER"	45
NIAGARA	47
THE APPROACH OF MARS, 1877	51
CASTELLAMARE—A TALE	55
CASTLE CAMPBELL	98
EMPEDOCLES	101
THE VOYAGE OF ST. BRANDAN	108

ANCESTRAL WORSHIP	111
MOUNT VERNON	113
FAITH MILITANT	115
THE "CUMBERLAND"	117
THE ADMIRAL	120
THE DEATH OF WALLENSTEIN	122
A LAY SERMON	124
THE VALLEY OF THE YUMURI	126
BERMUDA	128
IN MEMORIAM	131
"THE SEA IS MELANCHOLY"	133
THE BUCCANEER	134
DESOLATION	138
AROUND THE WORLD	140
ANGELINE.	144
MAY	145
A LOVE POEM	147
BULBUL AND GUL	148
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI	149
ST. FRANCES OF ROME	154

CONTENTS. 7

THE BRIDES OF CHRIST—SONNETS	155
THE ECSTASY OF ST. THERESA—SONNET	161
ART SONNETS	161
TITAN—SONNET	164
TO THE COMET, 1874—SONNET	165
GENOA—SONNET	165
PISA—SONNET	166

POEMS OF MANY YEARS

AND

MANY PLACES.

PERSEPHONE.

IN the boat's shadow leaning, looking down
In azure Cyane, whose fountain-lake
Was blue as the blue flax-flower in the fields,
Blue as the vernal-blue Sicilian sky,
I watched the sacred mullet in the depths —
Smooth, silver-bellied, living turquoises —
Gleam gliding through the dark green water-weeds,
And heard the seeming idle wind, that played
With tassels of the pool's papyrus fringe,
And lifted languid poppies in the wheat,
To earnest listening grow oracular.
Whispers of far-off secrets of the Nile
Stirred in each fibre of those feathering plants;
Hints of high mysteries Eleusinian ran
Shivering through the corn; and a sweet voice,
Sweet and low, breathing from the Fountain Nymph,
Whose blue eye wells with immemorial grief,
Told the old story of Persephone.

Thus sang the Nymph, what time the westering sun
Made golden Etna's pyramid of snow:

Deep-bosomed, slender-ankled in the meadows,
In maiden flower among the flowers of Enna,
Persephone, the fairest of immortals,
Daughter of Zeus and of divine Demeter,
Played with the daughters of Océanus.

With flowers at play, beneath the brow of Enna,
Where the soft meadows slope to the lake's margin:
Rosy Ocyrrhoë, and fair Calypso,
Leucippe, and Urania, and Ianche,
And lovely Melobosis, and the rest.

She a sweet blossom, blooming her companions,
They wove the dance in mesh of spring-flower gar-
lands;
Wove hyacinth, lily, crocus, orchis, iris;
Fair-ankled in the violets, these they gathered,
And the young roses budding bosom-high.

But lo! from one miraculous root Narcissus
Springs high — a hundred heads! A joy! A marvel!
The whole wide heaven was blown abroad in fra-
grance,
The whole earth laughed, and the wide waves of
ocean,
And chaste Persephone stretched out her hands.

The Nymph sang on, the while the setting sun
Threw Etna's shadow far athwart the sea:

It was the snare of Zeus! O fatal Plant!
Each flower flared up a torch: the dark earth yawned;
And from the gulf leaped the grim Lord of Hell —

Leaped Aidoneus, borne by immortal steeds,
Coal-black in hide and hoofs, hot coals their eyes,
Their nostrils snorting fiery-golden steam.

Flecked with the froth of hell, they champed the bit,
Pawing a whirlwind, as the grisly King
Stooped from his car, and snatched the astonished maid.

He bore her all-unwilling in his arms
Away from her white nymphs. They swept the plain:
The olives shook; the mountain-sides turned pale.

I heard the thunder of devouring speed;
The mountains echoing her immortal cry,
Calling on her great Mother and the gods.

I saw the flame-enkindling chariot-spokes
Whirl round by Hybla, the swift, smoking steeds
Tossing a tempest from imperious manes.

One piteous arm Persephone stretched forth;
All else of rose-white limb and rhythmic grace
Seemed gathered up in a black thunder-cloud.

Helios, the bright son of Hyperion, saw
Unmoved; my sister Arethusa heard,
And hastened to Demeter: I alone,

Catching the faint gleam of a golden head
'Neath brows tremendous crowned with awful stars,
Sprang forward to oppose him unappalled;

But Aidoneus, with sceptred arm-sweep, smote
The earth to the core, and vanished. She was gone
From land, sea, starry heaven, and tribes of gods!