STORIES FROM THE EARTHLY PARADISE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649123674

Stories from The earthly paradise by C. S. Evans & William Morris

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C. S. EVANS & WILLIAM MORRIS

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THE DIRECTSS CICELY FINDS MICHAEL ASLEEP IN THE GARDEN (see $\rho, \, 77\, \ell$

STORIES FROM THE EARTHLY PARADISE BY WILLIAM MORRIS

RETOLD IN PROSE BY C. S. EVANS

ILLUSTRATED

LONDON EDWARD ARNOLD

1915

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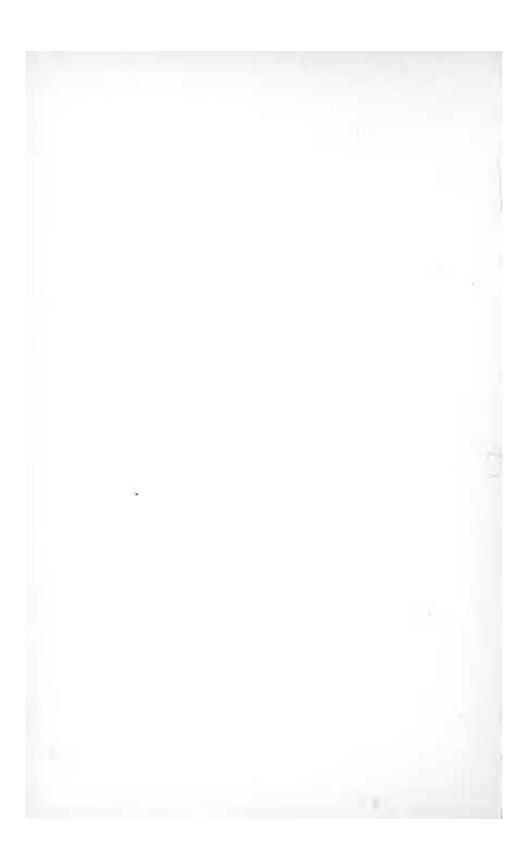
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CONTENTS

| TERROTECON | | | | | | | TAGE |
|--------------------|----------|------|------------|------------|------|-----|------|
| INTRODUCTION - | · · | | 657 | 0.T | 25 | - 5 | |
| ATALANTA'S RACE | 1221 | | | <i>i</i> ₽ | | ÷ | 7 |
| THE MAN BORN TO B | E KING | • | 19 | 2.5 | 10 | | 19 |
| THE SON OF CREESUS | • | 2 | 22 | 12 | 2 | | 65 |
| THE WRITING ON THE | IMAGE | ÷ | ×. | 3 | | ÷ | 78 |
| THE LADY OF THE L | AND | 1 | 82 | 12 | ÷ | - | 90 |
| THE PROUD KING | • | | | | • | | 100 |
| THE LOVE OF ALCEST | TS. | • | | | | - | 116 |
| THE STORY OF RHOD | OPE | • | 3 | 3. | | • | 131 |
| THE LAND EAST OF | THE SUN | AND | WEST | OF THE | MOON | - | 152 |
| THE DOOM OF KING | ACRISIUS | | 28 | | × | | 180 |
| OGIER THE DANE | 81 3 | è п | 3 2 | 4 | 1.20 | • | 211 |
| THE MAN WHO NEVE | R LAUGH | ED A | AIN | 1. 3 | * 01 | - | 228 |

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

| | | PAGE |
|---|------|------|
| "THE PRINCESS CICELY FINDS MICHAEL ASLEEP IN THE GARDEN" Coloured frontispic | | |
| "ATALANTA WAVERED FOR A MOMENT, THEN RAN TO PR | CK. | |
| n op" · · · · · | 5 | 15 |
| "HE SAW THE SQUIRE DROP THE (BADLE IN THE WATER | ٤,, | 31 |
| "' WAIT, ATYS; I COME, I COME !' " | • | 75 |
| "HE REACHED HIS HAND TO THE SLIDI NECK OF THE QUE | EN | |
| AND UNCLASPED THE COLDEN COLLAR " | | 87 |
| "SMITING BLINDLY AT THE HORROR WITH HIS SWORD " | | 97 |
| " HE STOOD OUT TRANSFIGURED, COD-LIKE, IN THE CLOW | ** 7 | 125 |
| "BHODOPE SAW THAT HE HELD IN HIS TALONS ONE OF T | HE | |
| GOLDEN SHOES" | | 139 |
| " PRESENTLY SHE PICKED UP THE SWAN-SKIN AND STOOD ID | LY | |
| SMOOTHING ITS FEATHERS" | | 157 |



INTRODUCTION

WITH Dante Gabriel Rossetti, William Morris stands at the head of that little group of so-called "asthetic" poets, whose work exercised so great an influence upon the literature of the latter half of the nineteenth century. Born in 1884, of well-to-do parents, at Walthamstow, he was educated at Marlborough, and later at Exeter College, Oxford. There he came into contact with Burne-Jones. already in revolt against the accepted canons of art so far as painting was concerned, and the friendship that ensued confirmed in both young men that taste for the romantic and the archaic which they were to develop along such different lines. With Morris, other, and perhaps stronger, influences succeeded, but they were all in the same direction. The art that most interested him was the art which claimed beauty as its sole end and aim, and which sought for beauty in things remote from the realities of common life. The spirit that animated Rossetti and Swinburne was the impulse that stirred Morris also, and although he never attained to the emotional depth of the one, or the sheer mastery over sounds and images which characterized the other, yet he succeeded in throwing over all his work that glamour which surrounds the memories of ancient times and ancient men,

1