

STORIES FROM THE EARTHLY PARADISE

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

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C. S. EVANS & WILLIAM MORRIS

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EARTHLY PARADISE**

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THE EARTHLY PARADISE



THE PRINCESS CICEUS FINDS MICHAEL ASLEEP IN THE GARDEN. (See p. 57.)

STORIES FROM
THE EARTHLY
PARADISE
BY WILLIAM MORRIS

RETOLD IN PROSE BY C. S. EVANS

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INTRODUCTION

WITH Dante Gabriel Rossetti, William Morris stands at the head of that little group of so-called "æsthetic" poets, whose work exercised so great an influence upon the literature of the latter half of the nineteenth century. Born in 1834, 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,