

# **THE LUTANIST**

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The Lutanist by Alice Wilson

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**ALICE WILSON**

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# THE LUTANIST

ALICE WILSON



BOSTON  
RICHARD G. BADGER  
THE GORHAM PRESS

1882  
1883

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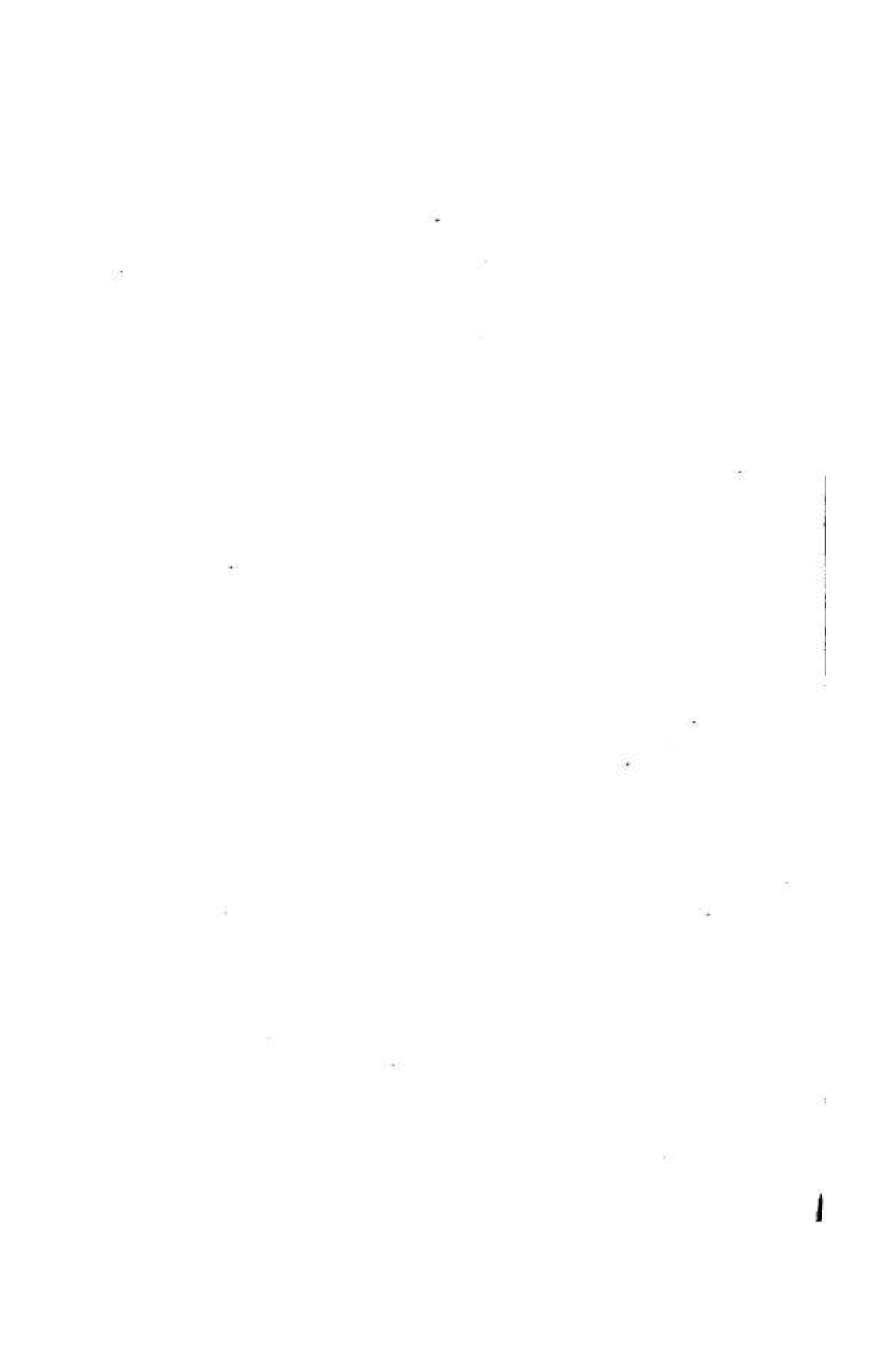
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**THE LUTANIST**

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## HERO TO LEANDER

Was it yestermorn at Aphrodite's shrine  
I stood a Vestal 'mid the flowery feast,  
Cool-bosomed as a Goddess in her stone?  
The chanting hushed, the garlands hung a'dream,  
As into my young hands the solemn priest  
Presented honors. Serene as morning star  
I stood to pour libations and let fall  
Rich incense into purifying flame.  
Yet e'er I served I raised my pious eyes  
As ever toward my Goddess.—Lo! instead  
(Oh, how the sweet remembrance startles yet!)  
My lifted gaze was caught upon thy gaze  
And burning hung for one eternal moment.

Leander, my beloved, from what star  
Came thy dear birth upon me? Suddenly  
The sound of priest's voice drew me back to vows!  
All while I fed the flame its holy food  
Mine eyes close-shut their all dismayed sight  
Seeking their olden memories and vows.  
Where went they? Where my goddesses beloved?  
Where the pure calm of statued presences?  
Ah fled, before thine own white-passioned face,  
Godlike yet far more dearly beautiful,  
Whose worship newly bound me.

Oft had I scorned  
To hear how sporting nymphs, in deep recesses  
Of rock-cleft woodland sacred to their kind,  
Full swiftly were caught back by prisoning reach  
Of forest half-god—and their play was lost.