

**UNGUARDED
GATES
AND OTHER POEMS**

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Unguarded gates and other poems by Thomas Bailey Aldrich

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THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH

**UNGUARDED
GATES
AND OTHER POEMS**

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

UNGUARDED GATES

AND OTHER POEMS

BY

THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH
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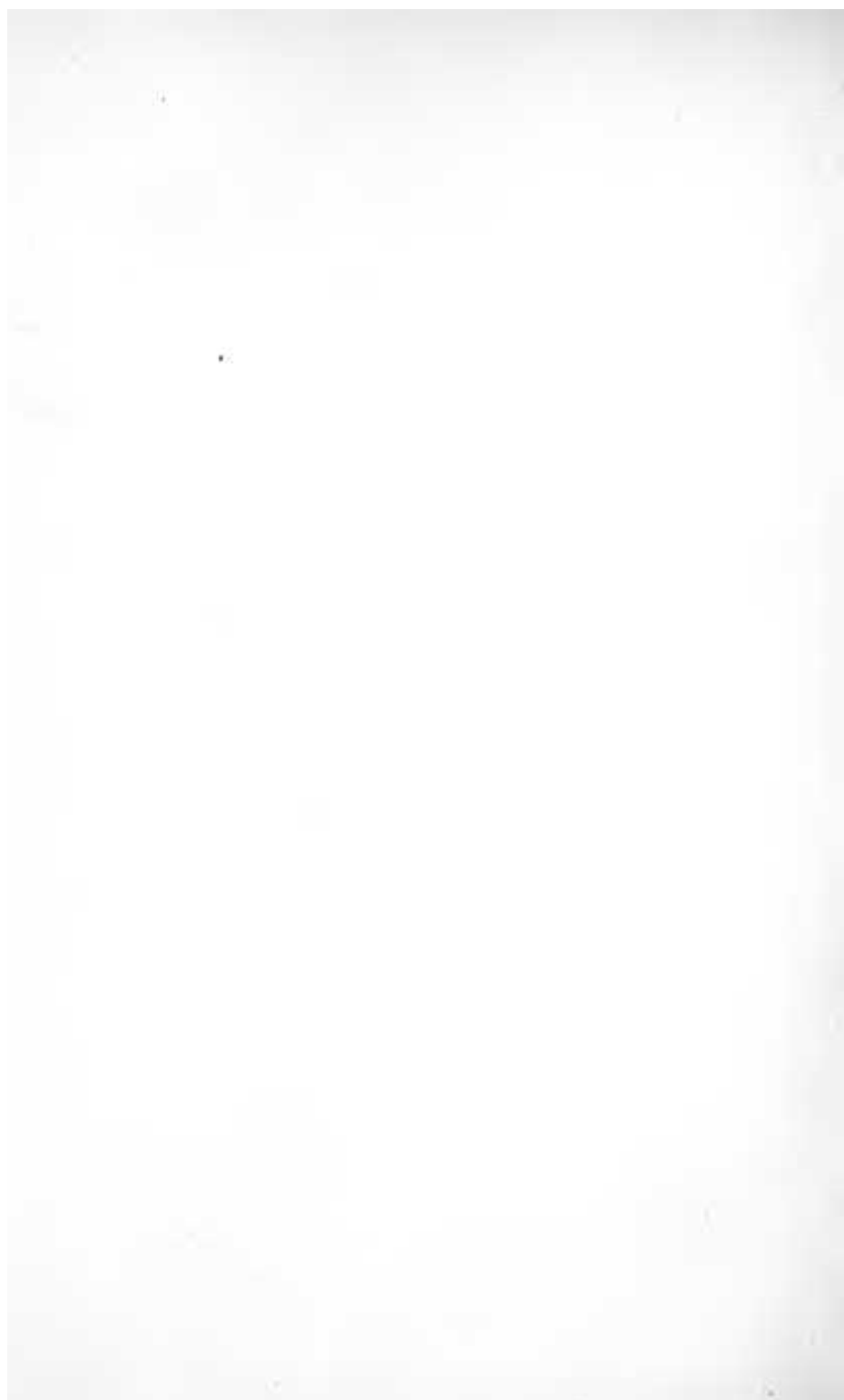
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PRELUDE



PRELUDE

In youth, beside the lonely sea,
Voices and visions came to me.

Titania and her furtive broods
Were my familiars in the woods.

From every flower that broke in flame,
Some half-articulate whisper came.

In every wind I felt the stir
Of some celestial messenger.

Later, amid the city's din
And toil and wealth and want and sin,

They followed me from street to street,
The dreams that made my boyhood sweet.

As in the silence-haunted glen,
So, mid the crowded ways of men,

Strange lights my errant fancy led,
Strange watchers watched beside my bed.

Ill fortune had no shafts for me
In this aerial company.

Now one by one the visions fly,
And one by one the voices die.