

**A BOOK  
OF RHYME**

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A Book of Rhyme by Augusta Webster

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**AUGUSTA WEBSTER**

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BY  
AUGUSTA WEBSTER



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## POULAIN THE PRISONER.

### I.

BEYOND his silent vault green springs went by,  
The river flashed along its open way,  
Blithe swallows fitted in their billowy play,  
And the sweet lark went quivering up the sky.  
With him was stillness and his heart's dumb cry  
And darkness of the tomb through hopeless day,  
Save that along the wall one single ray  
Shifted, through jealous loop-holes, westerly.

One single ray: and where its light could fall  
His rusty nail carved saints and angels there,  
And warriors, and slim girls with braided hair,  
And blossomy boughs, and birds athwart the air.  
Rude work, but yet a world. And light for all  
Was one slant ray upon a prison wall.