

**GERALD MASSEY: POET,
PROPHET, AND MYSTIC;
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS**

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Gerald Massey: Poet, Prophet, and Mystic; With Illustrations by B. O. Flower & Laura Lee

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B. O. FLOWER & LAURA LEE

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UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA



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BY B. O. FLOWER, WITH
ILLUSTRATIONS BY
LAURA LEE.

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This book is inscribed to my wife,
HATTIE C. FLOWER,
whose noble life, and fine, in-
spiring thought, have been a
constant aid in all I have
endeavored to accom-
plish for freedom,
justice and truth.

M193217

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"She grew a sweet and sinless child."

I. The Poet and the Man.

THERE are in our midst many poets who attract small attention from conventional critics, as they have studiously avoided the praise of conservatism, choosing the byways of duty in preference to the highway of popularity, and always living up to their highest conviction of right. The poor, the oppressed, and the sorrowing have been their special charge. Their lives have been characterized by simplicity, and their words and deeds have inspired unnumbered struggling souls with lofty ideals and nobler conceptions of life. While the wreath of fame has been placed by conservatism on the brows of many whose empty rhymes have conformed to the *dilettante* standard of "art for art's

TO VINU AIRBORNE

sake," these poets have quietly sung courage, hope and love into the hearts of the people, luring them unconsciously to higher altitudes of spirituality. They have at all times proclaimed the noble altruism of living for others — the song of the to-morrow of civilization. Amid the ambitions and jealousies of life, the strife for fame and gold, they are not found ; but where tyranny mocks freedom and the poor cry for justice, their words ring clear and strong. They are the people's saviours, for they help the multitudes into the light of truth and up the path of noble endeavor.

Among this *coterie* of chosen sons of God, whose unpurchasable love of justice and holy candor of soul have rendered it impossible for them to yield to the siren voices of conventionalism, no name is entitled to a more honored place than that of Gerald Massey — the poet-prophet of our day, who has stood for truth and right, while