

# **BALLADS OF THE SUNLIT YEARS**

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Ballads of the Sunlit Years by James Lindsay Gordon

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**JAMES LINDSAY GORDON**

**BALLADS OF THE  
SUNLIT YEARS**



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### JAMES LINDSAY GORDON.

James Lindsay Gordon, author of "Ballads of the Sunlit Years," died at his residence, No. 15 West 17th Street, New York City, while this volume was going through the press. He was born in Virginia January 9, 1860, and was educated at William and Mary College and the University of Virginia. He studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1881. He practised his profession in Charlottesville, Va., from that date to 1893, serving in the meantime for three years in Virginia state Senate, and declining a renomination. In 1893 he removed to New York City where he resided and practised law up to the date of his death. He served as Assistant District Attorney of the City of New York under District Attorneys Gardiner and Philbin, and at the time of his death was Assistant Corporation Counsel of New York City.

He was distinguished for his eloquence as a political and forensic speaker; and delivered addresses, among many others before the Alumni Societies of the University of Virginia and William and Mary College, before the Southern Societies of Atlanta, Georgia, and the graduating classes of Randolph Macon College and the University of Vermont.

"Ballads of the Sunlit Years" include a number of his fugitive poems, selected and arranged by himself, many of which have never before been published.

The edition is limited to 990 copies.



**BALLADS**  
OF THE  
**SUNLIT YEARS**

LSC BY  
**JAMES LINDSAY GORDON**

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1904  
MRS

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## TO ONE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY

### I

*Where the rain of roses fell  
In the waning of the year,  
Like the chiming of a bell  
Out of some far distant sphere*

*Came thy voice, O lost and dear!  
Came the voice ineffable  
All my heart was fain to hear.*

*Low and golden, slow and clear  
As a spent wave's seaward swell,  
So it fell upon my ear  
Where the rain of roses fell.*

## II

*"Where art thou and where are they?"  
Breathed its whisper through thy tears,  
"Songs of our diviner day,—  
Ballads of the sunlit years?"*

*Songs that memory more endears  
As the later skies grow grey,—  
Spun of laughter, hopes and fears.*

*Still the listening spirit hears,  
Sighing down life's darkened way,  
Echoes out of sunlit years;  
Where art thou and where are they?"*

## III

*Sweet, they are vain of no feet but thine,  
My flowers of song from the shadowed seas  
On which thy life drifts away from mine,  
And so, for answer, I send thee these.*

*All their petals are drenched with lees,—  
Wet with dregs of life's wasted wine:  
Sorrow sobs through their melodies.*

*Love them or spurn as thy mood may please,  
Many gifts hast thou: here are mine:  
Songs of the sunlit years, from seas  
Whose tides still beat to no feet but thine.*  
August, 1903.