

BERTHA: A STORY OF LOVE

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Bertha: a story of love by Charles Edward Sayle Bertha

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CHARLES EDWARD SAYLE BERTHA

**BERTHA: A
STORY OF LOVE**

BERTHA

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“ We shall be
But closer linked, two creatures whom the earth
Bears singly, with strange feelings unrevealed
But to each other.”

—*Browning.*

BERTHA:

A STORY OF LOVE.

"All ye that pass along Love's trodden way,
Pause ye awhile."

LONDON:
KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, & CO.
1 PATERNOSTER SQUARE.
1885.

W. C. 318



NOSTRO AMORI.

“Minuentur atre
Carminē cura,”

—*Horatius.*

PREFACE.



IN the following pages I have endeavoured to depict the feelings and thoughts of one to whom Life has shone with a lustre not all its own, but rather Love's than Life's. I have endeavoured to depict one for whom the cup of life had been filled to the brim, and filled with the nectar of Love; for whom the odour of that wine had arisen from the bowl, and whose lips had tasted something of its sweetness and known something of its divine effects. But I have depicted one from whose hand that cup had been ruthlessly dashed, and whose only consolation was that the wine so cruelly spilt, the wine now vanished, sucked in by the ground at one's feet, was yet not