

**SPRING AND  
AUTUMN  
IN IRELAND**

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Spring and Autumn in Ireland by Alfred Austin

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**ALFRED AUSTIN**

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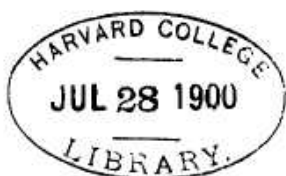
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Lucy Usgood fund

TO  
THE BRAVE AND GIFTED  
IRISH PEOPLE  
I TENDER THIS VOLUME.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY,  
1900.

~~9492.52~~



## PREFATORY NOTE.

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THIS volume is reproduced from two papers that appeared in 'Blackwood's Magazine' in the years 1894, 1895. It has been thought that their republication, expressive as they are of the love and admiration the author has long felt for Ireland, and which now animates all hearts, may be deemed not inappropriate at the present moment.



## SPRING AND AUTUMN IN IRELAND.

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### I.

“THIS damnable country!” Such was the description given of Ireland, now many generations ago, by an English statesman to his superiors in London concerning the land he had been sent to administer; and the same phrase, or the same sentiment in different words, has been re-echoed many a time since, by politicians and non-politicians on each side of the Channel, respecting the island “lying a-loose,” as *Campion* the historian in the reign of Elizabeth has it, “on the west ocean.” This damnable country! Far be it from me to add the very smallest stone to the colossal cairn of controversy that has been raised over the Irish