

SONGS OF WEDLOCK

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649344932

Songs of Wedlock by T. A. Daly

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T. A. DALY

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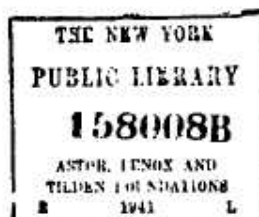
**BY
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**PHILADELPHIA
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1916

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TO N. B. D.

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THE PERFECT SOLITUDE

WHEN, sick at heart and weary of my kind
And of the day-long traffic, I would find
The peace and healing touch of solitude,
I envy no lone eremite who stands,
Sealed up with silence on the desert sands,
Where never murmurs of the world intrude.
I know a sweeter place, a holier bower
For the enshrining of the quiet hour.

Mine is a solitude that two may share,
A lamp-lit table, with an easy chair
At either end, a friendly book for each,
And—save for clock-ticks pulsing in the room—
Sweet silence; but a silence that may bloom,
At her will or at mine, to loving speech.
This is the dearest place, the holiest bower
For the enshrining of the quiet hour.