IF I WERE KING, PP. 1-264

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If I Were King, pp. 1-264 by Justin Huntly McCarthy

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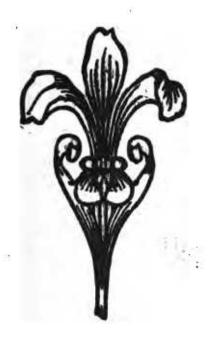
IF I WERE KING



"Alas for lovers! Pair by pair
The Wind has blown them all away;
The young and yare, the fond and fair;
Where are the Snows of Yesterday?"

IF I WERE, KING

BY
JUSTIN HUNTLY McCARTHY



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DEDICATION

To Her
Through Whom and For Whom
This Book was Written
The Loveliest Lady this side of Heaven."

XXI. XII. MCMI.

:

If I were king—ah love, if I were king!
What tributary nations would I bring
To stoop before your sceptre and to swear
Allegiance to your lips and eyes and hair.
Beneath your feet what treasures I would fling:—
The stars should be your pearls upon a string,
The world a ruby for your finger ring,
And you should have the sun and moon to wear
If I were king.

Let these wild dreams and wilder words take wing,
Deep in the woods I hear a shepherd sing
A simple ballad to a sylvan air,
Of love that ever finds your face more fair.
I could not give you any godlier thing
If I were king.