

**EUPHRENIA; OR THE
TEST OF
LOVE, A POEM**

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Euphrenia; or The test of love, a poem by William Sharp

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WILLIAM SHARP

**EUPHRENIA; OR THE
TEST OF
LOVE, A POEM**

EUPHRENIA

OR

The Test of Love

A POEM

BY

WILLIAM SHARP

|||

(FIONA MACLEOD, 1901)

στάζει δ' ἐν θόρῳ πρὸ καρδίας
μνησπῆμον πόνος, καὶ παρ' ἄκοιτος ἔλθε σωθῆναι,
δαμόνων δὲ πον χάρει,
βελίως σέλα σμεῖον ἡμῶν.

ÆSCHYLUS, 172.

LONDON

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH & CO., 1, PATERNOSTER SQUARE

1884

PR 5354
E87

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHOR'S KNOWN INTENTION,

THIS POEM IS

(BY PERMISSION)

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO

The Hon. Lady Gilmer,

AS A TRIBUTE OF ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE.

PREFACE.

THE poem now offered to the Public was begun as long ago as 1850, and completed about 1856. It underwent various revisions during the next few years, and then remained unaltered. The author had not given up the intention of publication; but a variety of causes, especially his extreme modesty, induced him to put off that step from time to time until his death in 1883, and it is now left to his son to usher the work into the world.

It is presented exactly as it was left, as the editor feels that he has neither the capacity nor the right to make any alteration.

It would be presumption for him to say more, and with these few words he commends the work to the favour of the critics and the public.

14, MOUNT STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE,
October, 1884.



CANTO FIRST.
THE LOVERS.

ARGUMENT.

The lovers—The trysting place—The first cloud—Contrition—Reflections suggested by the storm—The library—The “still small voice”—The consolations of “the Book”—Sleep—The maiden’s altered views—Her fears—The influence of prayer—The maiden’s chamber—The sleeping girl—Midnight in the library—The council of the Spirits of the Books—The subject of debate.—The argument—The speeches of the Spirits of Episcopacy—Infidelity and Satire—The sentence of the Spirit of Law—The Spirits of the Night employed in their vocations.