

A FEW VERSES

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A Few Verses by Lorimer Stoddard

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BY

LORIMER STODDARD

d.



NEW YORK
PRIVATELY PRINTED

1902

A WORD

I have gathered and printed these verses, by my son, who lightly regarded them, for the friends who loved him and wished for them.

ELIZABETH STODDARD

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I

*Back and forth in his room,
Like the shuttle in his loom,
Weaving a shroud he went ;
" My thread is nearly spent,
And life is so fugitive
I shall forget to live."*

II

*Before the loom was still,
Or woven the winding-sheet,
Sped by the thread of his will,
The weaver with silent feet
Stole like a vision by
Forgetting in death to die.*

RICHARD HENRY STODDARD

July 1, 1901

THE GARDEN

UNDER the gloom of the shivering pines,
That whisper when it blows,
Behind the creeper-covered wall
Is a garden that always grows.

In summer and in springtime,
And when the winter snows
Bend the dark benches to the ground,
The garden always grows.

The hand of man has made it,
The white stones stand in rows,
The tears of the world have watered it,
And the garden always grows.

There are many gardens like it,
Their number no man knows ;
Each day till the world is ended
This garden always grows.

THE REPRESENTATIVE

IN the wilds of the western country,
When the sun was going down,
We rode through a silent village
Which never became a town.

The doors of the houses stood open,
The windows were black and bare ;
No faces smiled behind them,
No firelight flickered there.

By the roadside leaned a tombstone,
Another had fallen down ;
Beneath, two men lay sleeping,
To represent the town.

IN THE WOODS

A MID the leaves against the sky
Sings the brown-breasted thrush,
All nature listens to his song
Which breaks the sylvan hush.
His little mate upon her nest
Harkens the whole day long,
For there above he sings his love
In his happy, wordless song.

Poet, if you a woman love,
Throw down your weary pen.
Words are but echoes of a love,
And women love but men.
Go, walk the woods alone
Where nature's voice is heard,
In the forest where the thrushes sing
Love's love without a word.