

LONDON VISIONS

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London Visions by Laurence Binyon

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LAURENCE BINYON

**LONDON
VISIONS**

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BY

LAURENCE BINYON

COLLECTED AND
AUGMENTED



LONDON

ELKIN MATHEWS, VIGO STREET

1908

First published in October, 1908.

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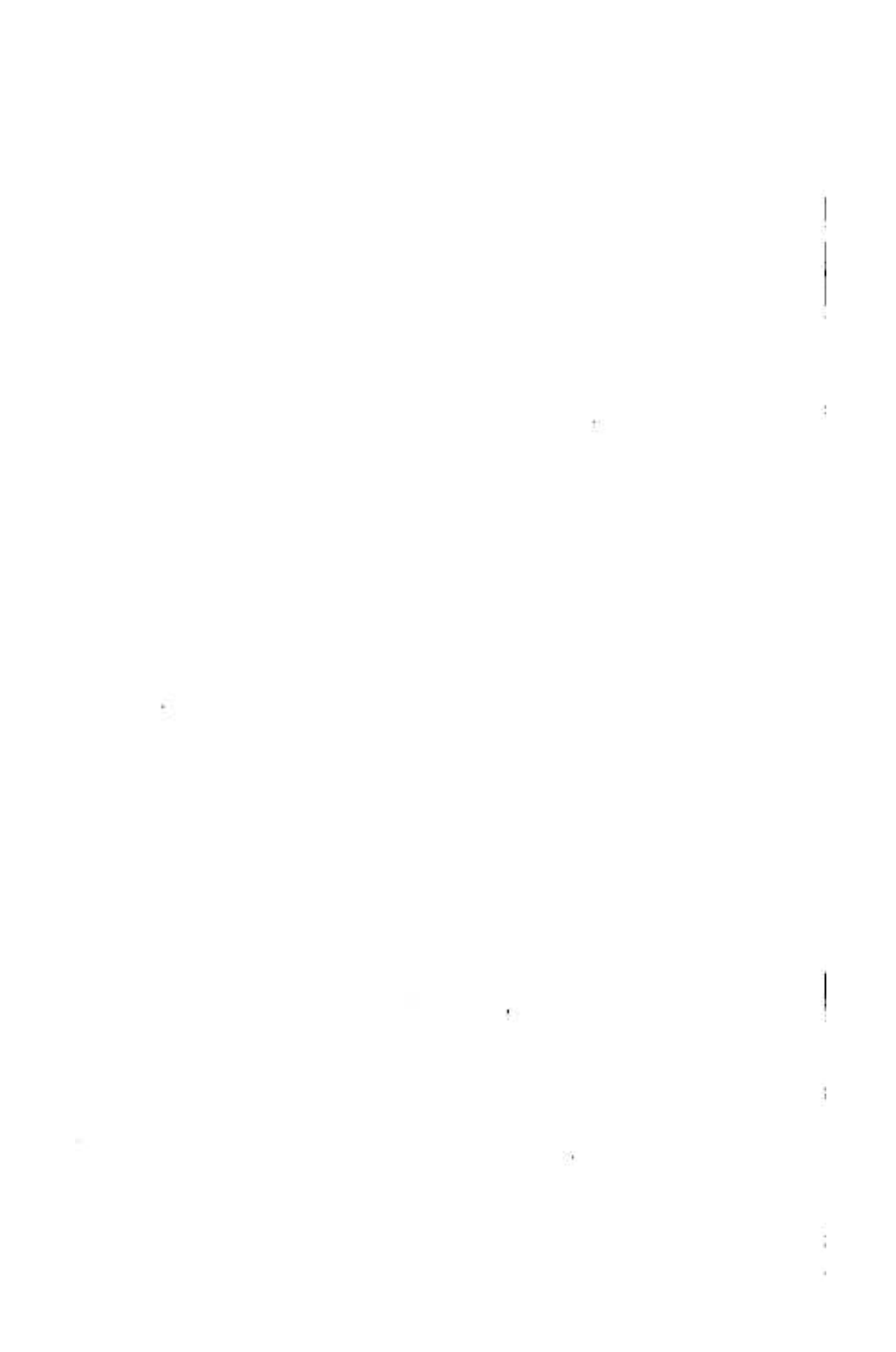
PREFACE

THESE poems have been collected from two little volumes published under the same title in 1895 and 1898; from a volume of poems printed by Mr. Daniel at Oxford in 1895, and from "Porphyryion and other Poems," published in 1898. To these are added a certain number of unpublished pieces, more recently written.

Little satisfied as I am with the verse which forms this collection, composed at various times, and some of it now a long while ago, I have thought it better to leave it as it was written, save for a few corrections and omissions. I should wish that the whole, now rearranged, should be regarded as a single corporate poem, and no one piece apart from the rest. Some, I feel, are too insignificant to stand alone, yet add perhaps some slight touch to an aggregate effect.

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LONDON VISIONS

I

RED NIGHT

ROLLED in a smouldering mist, wrapt in an ardent
cloud,
Over ridged roofs, over the buried roar
That comes and goes
Where shadowy London mutters at the core
Of meeting streets interminably ploughed
Through blackness built and steeped and im-
mense
With felt, unfeatured, waste magnificence,
The night shudders and glows.
Ensanguined skies, that lower and lift and change
Each instant! sullen with a spectral rose
Upon the towered horizon; but more near
A lurid vapour, throbbing up the gloom,
Glares like a furnace fume;
Exhausted pallors hover faint and strange;
Dull fiery flushes melt and reappear;
While over all in lofty glimpses far
Spaces of silence and blue dream disclose
The still eye of a star.

I

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