

**A SELECTION FROM THE
POETRY OF ELIZABETH
BARRETT BROWNING,
SECOND SERIES**

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A selection from the poetry of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, second series by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

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ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

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OF
ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

SECOND SERIES

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THE POET AND THE BIRD.

A FABLE.

SAID a people to a poet—"Go out from among us
straightway!

While we are thinking earthly things, thou singest of
divine:

There 's a little fair brown nightingale who, sitting in the
gateway,

Makes fitter music to our ear than any song of thine!"

The poet went out weeping; the nightingale ceased
chanting:

"Now, wherefore, O thou nightingale, is all thy sweet-
ness done?"

—"I cannot sing my earthly things, the heavenly poet
wanting,

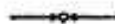
Whose highest harmony includes the lowest under
sun."

The poet went out weeping, and died abroad, bereft
there;

The bird flew to his grave and died amid a thousand
wails:

And when I last came by the place, I swear the music
left there

Was only of the poet's song, and not the nightingale's.



THE DESERTED GARDEN.

I MIND me in the days departed,
How often underneath the sun
With childish bounds I used to run
To a garden long deserted.

The beds and walks were vanished quite ;
And, wheresoe'er had struck the spade,
The greenest grasses Nature laid
To sanctify her right.

I called the place my wilderness,
For no one entered there but I ;
The sheep looked in, the grass to espy,
And passed it ne'ertheless.

The trees were interwoven wild,
And spread their boughs enough about
To keep both sheep and shepherd out,
But not a happy child.

Adventurous joy it was for me !
I crept beneath the boughs, and found
A circle smooth of mossy ground
Beneath a poplar tree.

Old garden rose-trees hedged it in,
Bedropt with roses waxen-white
Well satisfied with dew and light
And careless to be seen.

Long years ago it might befall,
When all the garden flowers were trim,
The grave old gardener prided him,
On these the most of all.