

PICTURES OF THE FLOATING WORLD

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Pictures of the floating world by Amy Lowell

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AMY LOWELL

**PICTURES OF THE
FLOATING WORLD**

Books by AMY LOWELL
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Poetry

WHAT'S O'CLOCK

LEGENDS

PICTURES OF THE FLOATING WORLD

CAN GRANDE'S CASTLE

MEN, WOMEN AND GHOSTS

SWORD BLADES AND POPPY SEED

A DOME OF MANY-COLOURED GLASS

A CRITICAL FABLE

(IN COLLABORATION WITH FLORENCE AYSCOUGH)

FIR-FLOWER TABLETS: POEMS TRANSLATED

FROM THE CHINESE

Prose

TENDENCIES IN MODERN AMERICAN POETRY

SIX FRENCH POETS: STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

JOHN KEATS

PICTURES
OF THE
FLOATING WORLD

BY
AMY LOWELL



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*"In the name of these States and in your and my name,
the Past,*

*And in the name of these States and in your and my
name, the Present time."*

Walt Whitman. "WITH ANTECEDENTS."

FOREWORD

THE march of peoples is always toward the West, wherefore, the earth being round, in time the West must be East again. A startling paradox, but one which accounts for the great interest and inspiration that both poets and painters are discovering in Oriental art. The first part of this book represents some of the charm I have found in delving into Chinese and Japanese poetry. It should be understood, however, that these poems, written in a quasi-Oriental idiom, are not translations except in a very few instances all of which have been duly acknowledged in the text.

In the Japanese "Lacquer Prints," the *hokku* pattern has been more closely followed than has any corresponding Chinese form in the "Chinoiseries"; but, even here, I have made no

