IO IN EGYPT, AND OTHER POEMS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649615971

Io in Egypt, and Other Poems by Richard Garnett

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BY

RICHARD GARNETT.



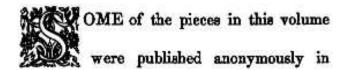
LONDON :

BELL AND DALDY, 186, FLEET STREET.

1859.

280. 2. 248.





1858, under the title of " Primula, a Book

of Lyrics."

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CONTENTS.

	0.000	317	ź	5													Page		
	USE AN	O in Th	ı F	gy	pt	٠.		÷.	3¥.,		٠						1		
	X7 1 C*	Th	e l	Pop	pe'	a L	aug	ght	er					٠			6		
	20 P 20	Me	alu	sin	8			٠,									14		
	100	Ev	en	-84	ar												18		
	Parts a	Th	. 91	Re	viv	isc	ant	•				•••					20		
	The Ship's Under the 1	Dre	BI	1	•				•	•							23		
	Under the l	foot	n					1			4						25		
	Barbud the	Mir	18t	rel					area.		\sim	•		2.5			26	. e	
	Barbud the Sir Isumbra Autumn Le	18														- 2	33		
	Autumn Le	aves	1														35		
	The Island	of S	he	dan							٠.	а.,	- 2				37	22	
	More		20	1							- 22						41		13
	More Before the S	ston	m														43		
26	After the S The Box of	torn	n.														45		
	The Box of	Dis	m	ond	ls				.'		:			۰.		- 6	47		
	The Fair C	irca	100	en.	1.5	112	121	- 22		192						2	50		
	The Visit to The Seed as	o th	e ŝ	Sag	9												52		
	The Seed an	nd ti	he	F	OW	26						- 22	1				55		
	Ægisthus									2						1	56		
	Ægisthus Sonnet . A Nocturn			1							- 52	12			਼	-	58		
	A Nocturn						÷.					- 20					59		
	To the Crim		÷.	-						÷.							.60		
	The Philtre			23		2											63		
	The Philtre The Violet	to the	he	N	igh	tin;	gal				•••••						65		
	The Violet Summer Mo A Melody	onli	igh				٠.										67		
	A Melody		č						· · · ·	1							69		
	Elfia Folk				- 21			- 2	S. 1							1	70		
	Sonnet .				4												72		
	The Siren						1		•	۰.	0						78		
	The Eve of	the	G	cill	loti	De					0						74		
	A City Son	g															78		
	The Diver's	Sto	ry			1					2						79		
	Waking .		. *	2	20			-31		8	- 19	- 20		28	- 83		82		

-

Contents.

- 27

1

1

.

1

14

Facit Indignatio	Ve	rsu	m	82	2	5		3323		2		8.5		Page 84
Our Crocodile	12			1		1			12	1		1		85
Inscription for a	Sta	tue	of	Re	ho	- 3	1.1		0	- 2			-0	87
In the Trainh	fide	in	ht	-		- 5		88	- 3			- 10	- 2	89
The Queen of Pe	mela				~							•	•	91
The Lady of the	Te		i.	1			:	188	÷.	. 5		3.5	•	93
The Ballad of th						•			:	•	1	1.1	•	94
To the Memory								•					+	97
Where Corals lie						•	•	1			•	5	1	98
			. *	. *		. *	•	•	•	•	•	्र	•	99
	1	di.			•	٠	•	٠			٠		•	
The Highwayma	0'8	GI	081	2			•		2	•	•	٠	٠	
Fading-Leaf and	rai	llen	-1.6	A					٠	٠			•	102
Constance				٠	٠		٠		٠					
The Lyrical Poer		2.3	. •								2.0			105
The Didactic Po									1					105
Sonnet								•					-	106
To the Spirit of I	Вевт	ntv											60	107
Polyidus		1	1.			1		:	ż					109
Polyidus Musidora	٠.	- 20						1				2	-23	114
April Showers .	. Q	- 22	S.,	4		1		•						116
April Showers . Duresse	- 33	- 33	87	2	- 23	1	1	- 2	- 31			2	- 23	117
The Nix	- 81	1	÷.	Э.	- 53		2	- 2	- 21				-20	119
Fair Lissa			÷.	8	- 22		1		1			2		
Violets		ñ.	13	8	1.55		13		- 5	:	1	2	1	
Beauty			10 -		••••									125
Autumn Love .	•	•	٠			:	•	÷	•	:		•	٠.	126
Automn Love .	•		2	:		•	•					٠	•	
Caret	÷		1.4	٠				•	1					130
As I love thee .	1		1	23	•	5	•			. *	1	۰	10	
Mueic		1	٠.	٠	•	•	٠		•	ं	٠	٠	٠	131
					LA	П	0N	18,						
The Song of the .	Arc	har	ıgel	ß	•	1			1	•			10	133
Sunset			٠.						-2					135
Mignon's Song .				1.1				•	2					137
In a Glade			8						2					139
In a Glade Adieu, Heart's L	ove.	ad.	ieu	1	- 55		1	1	2	1	1	- 22		141
SONNETS FROM D	1101	LIB	WH	Cz.	. C							2,		
I. Eastward,	the	801	1 81	rise	19 C	lad	ín	gol	d		1	•		144
II. Bakchish III. Aloupka IV. The Roc	erai.		Ere	min	g									145
III. Aloupka		Mo	min	g				਼						
IV. The Roc	k of	A	iud	ah				9			٩.			147
Anacreontics .														148
Spring	- 510	10		2		÷.	2	:			•			151
O Blessed Night	- 11	2		1	37	2	88	1	1	15	8	36	1	152
											•			

viii

22

3

45

5



IO IN EGYPT.



O palm-grove, green 'mid lion-coloured sands, No forest-heaving mount, no river coil'd Involving in clear silver fair cham-

paigns,

Saw Io, mad and dizzied vagabond, Full thirty days, so long the visible wrath Of Hera as a gad-fly followed her.

First from the awful pinnacle whereon, Like a wreck'd star, the lorn Prometheus lay, Precipitated. Pine on pine was crash'd; Stone—dusty, fiery—bounded after stone; The startled eagle's scream, a moment's space, Vanquish'd the clash of cataracts. Then on Through deep Armenia, where the baffled snow

Io in Egypt.

Glares on the plenteous mulberry secure In sheltering glens. Then headlong through the still

Mesopotamia's plash'd unbroken plain; Then ever-hungering deserts, no man's land, By Syria and Arabia both disown'd: Till her strength fail'd her, and she fell at once, Unwitting where.

Grey-cushion'd on soft mist, Fumed from broad fens, reposed the sullied moon. A slow stream nursed her image, as a weak, Down-couching mother holds her new-born babe Up toward the father's face. Green curtainers, The rigid reeds upstood, and tressy sedge Bathed in the water. Ever and anon The crocodile plunged stone-like ; herded bulks Of tumbling, snorting hippopotami, Churn'd the smooth light, or, drippingly emerged, Pash'd the tall-flowering marsh where Io slept.

She woke in sunlight. As an alchymist From crucible to chalice, Libya pour'd A molten flood on Egypt. Golden sheets Unbeaded by a bubble. Like a cloud

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