

The Home Book of Verse, Volume 4

The Home Book of Verse

Volume 4

Burton Egbert Stevenson

Title: The Home Book of Verse, Volume 4
Author: Burton Egbert Stevenson
PART IV
FAMILIAR VERSE, AND POEMS
HUMOROUS AND SATIRIC
BALLADE OF THE PRIMITIVE JEST
What did the dark-haired Iberian laugh at before the tall blonde Aryan drove him into the corners of Europe? - Brander Matthews
I am an ancient Jest!
Palaeolithic man
In his arboreal nest
The sparks of fun would fan;
My outline did he plan,
And laughed like one possessed,
Twas thus my course began,
I am a Merry Jest!
I am an early Jest!
Man delved, and built, and span;
Then wandered South and West
The peoples Aryan, I journeyed in their van;
The Semites, too, confessed,
-From Beersheba to Dan, -
I am a Merry Jest!
I am an ancient Jest!
Through all the human clan,
Red, black, white, free, oppressed,
Hilarious I ran!
Im found in Lucian,
In Poggio, and the rest,
Im dear to Moll and Nan!
I am a Merry Jest!
ENVOY
Prince, you may storm and ban
-Joe Millers are a pest,
Suppress me if you can!
I am a Merry Jest!
Andrew Lang [1844-1912]
THE KINDLY MUSE
TIME TO BE WISE
Yes; I write verses now and then,
But blunt and flaccid is my pen,
No longer talked of by young men
As rather clever:
In the last quarter are my eyes,
You see it by their form and size;
Is it not time then to be wise?
Or now or never.
Fairest that ever sprang from Eve!
While Time allows the short reprieve,
Just look at me!
would you believe
Twas once a lover?
I cannot clear the five-bar gate;
But, trying first its timbers state,
Climb stiffly up, take breath,
and wait
To trundle over.
Through gallopade I cannot swing
The entangling blooms of Beautys spring:
I cannot say the tender thing,
Bet true or false,
And am beginning to opine
Those girls are only half-divine
Whose waists yon wicked boys entwine
In giddy waltz.
I fear that arm above that shoulder;
I wish them wiser, graver, older,
Sedater, and no harm if colder,
And panting less.
Ah! people were not half so

wild
In former days, when, starchly
mild,
Upon her high-heeled Essex
smiled
The brave Queen Bess.
Walter
Savage Landor [1775-1864]
UNDER THE
LINDENS
Under the lindens lately sat
A couple, and no more, in chat;
I wondered
what they would be at
Under the lindens.
I saw four eyes and four lips meet,
I heard the words,
How sweet! how sweet!
Had then the Fairies given a treat
Under the lindens?
I pondered long and could not tell
What dainty pleased them both so well:
Bees!
bees! was it your hydromel
Under the lindens?
Walter Savage Landor
[1775-1864]
ADVICE
To write as your sweet mother does
Is all you wish to do.
Play, sing, and smile for others,
Rose!
Let others write for you.
Or mount again your Dartmoor gray,
And I will walk beside,
Until we reach that quiet bay
Which only hears the tide.
Then wave at me your pencil,
then
At distance bid me stand,
Before the caverned cliff, again
The creature of your hand.
And bid me then go past the nook
To sketch me less in size;
There are but few content to look
So little in your eyes.
Delight us with the gifts you have,
And wish for none beyond:
To some be gay, to some be grave,
To one (blest youth!) be fond.
Pleasures there are how close to Pain
And better unpossessed!
Let poetry's too throbbing vein
Lie quiet in your breast.
Walter Savage Landor [1775-1864]
TO FANNY
Never mind how the pedagogue prosed,
You want not antiquity's stamp;
The lip, that such fragrance discloses,
Oh! never should smell of the lamp.
Old Chloe, whose withering kisses
Have long set the Loves at defiance,
Now, done with the science of blisses,
May fly to the blisses of science!
Young Sappho, for want of employments,
Alone o'er her Ovid may melt,
Condemned but to read of enjoyments,
Which wiser Corinna had felt.
But for you to be buried in books -
Oh, Fanny! they're pitiful sages;
Who could not in one of your looks
Read more than in millions of pages!
Astronomy finds in your eyes
Better light than she studies above,
And Music must borrow your sighs
As the

melody fittest for Love.

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