

is supported by T.'s pamphlet issue of May 1889. Composition: 'toward the end of Feb. [1889] . . . finishing his song . . . , which had been begun in the same garden years ago' (H.T.). H.T.'s transcript, *H.Nbk* 66, ends: 'From St James Nov 23/82'.

'Summer is coming, summer is coming.
I know it, I know it, I know it.
Light again, leaf again, life again, love again,
Yes, my wild little Poet.

5 Sing the new year in under the blue.
Last year you sang it as gladly.

'New, new, new, new'! Is it then *so* new
That you should carol so madly?

10 'Love again, song again, nest again, young again,
Never a prophet so crazy!
And hardly a daisy as yet, little friend,
See, there is hardly a daisy.

'Here again, here, here, here, happy year'!
O warble unhidden, unbidden!
15 Summer is coming, is coming, my dear,
And all the winters are hidden.

396 Early Spring [1883]

Published *Youth's Companion* (Boston), 13 Dec. 1883; then 1885. 'An early poem, slightly altered' (H.T.). For the 1833 version, see p. 496. T. now omitted five stanzas, added stanzas ii-iv, viii, and revised and rearranged the others. The letter sending the poem to Boston is dated 12 March 1883. There is a draft in T.'s late hand in the *University of London Library*; all variants are below. The late version is entitled *February* and *H.Lpr* 227.

I
Once more the Heavenly Power
Makes all things new,
And domes the red-plowed hills
With loving blue;

¶[395. 8. *should*] Not NR (see headnote).

13. *here,*] Not NR (see headnote).

¶[396. 3. *And domes the*] Bows over 1833.

4. *With*] The 1833.

5 The blackbirds have their wills,
The throistles too.

II

Opens a door in Heaven;
From skies of glass
A Jacob's ladder falls
10 On greening grass,
And o'er the mountain-walls
Young angels pass.

III

Before them fleets the shower,
And burst the buds,
15 And shine the level lands,
And flash the floods;
The stars are from their hands
Flung through the woods,

IV

The woods with living airs
20 How softly fanned,
Light airs from where the deep,
All down the sand,
Is breathing in his sleep,
Heard by the land.

V

25 O follow, leaping blood,
The season's lure!
O heart, look down and up
Serene, secure,
Warm as the crocus cup,
30 Like snowdrops, pure!

VI

Past, Future glimpse and fade
Through some slight spell,

¶[24] Not 1833; but ll. 7-12 are deleted in the draft in *T.Nbk* 17 (1833).

¶[10, 11-12] Transposed *London MS*, with l. 11 Athwart . . .

¶[13-14] Not *London MS*.

¶[15] The O *London MS* with] 1885; by 1883.

¶[16, 17] 1885; freshly 1883; gently *London MS*.

¶[18] My leaping blood obeys 1833.

¶[19] O heart, look] My heart looks 1833.

¶[20, 21] *glimpse and fade*] sparkle linkt 1833.

¶[22] *Through some slight*] By some light 1833.

A gleam from yonder vale,
Some far blue fell,
35 And sympathies, how frail,
In sound and smell!

VII

Till at thy chuckled note,
Thou twinkling bird,
The fairy fancies range,
40 And, lightly stirred,
Ring little bells of change
From word to word.

VIII

For now the Heavenly Power
Makes all things new,
45 And thaws the cold, and fills
The flower with dew;
The blackbirds have their wills,
The poets too.

397 Epitaph on Caxton

IN ST MARGARET'S, WESTMINSTER

Published 1885. Written for a painted window at the request of F. W. Farrar, who suggested that it should turn on *Fiat Lux* (*Life of Farrar*, 1904, p. 226). Farrar wrote to H.T., 7 May 1883: 'I hardly ventured to hope that he would be able to give thought to so difficult a matter as a quatrain to Caxton. I am delighted with [it]' (*Lincoln*). William Caxton was the first English printer. 'With the exception of that on Sir John Franklin . . . he thought this the best of his epitaphs' (H.T.). Cp. 2 *Peter* i 19: 'We have also a more sure word of prophecy . . . as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.'

33. A] 1885; Some 1883, *London MS*.

33-5] Charms, touches, mysteries
Words may not tell,
Faint, fragile sympathies 1833

37. Till at] Hearing 1833.

38. Thou] O 1833.

39. The fairy] My tricky 1833.

43. For now] Once more *London MS* 1st reading.

43-8] Not 1833.

45. thaws the cold] melts the rime *London MS*.

Fiat Lux (his motto).

Thy prayer was 'Light—more Light—while Time
shall last!'
Thou sawest a glory growing on the night,
But not the shadows which that light would cast,
Till shadows vanish in the Light of Light.

398 To E. FitzGerald

Published 1885, introducing *Tiresias* (p. 568). Written c. June 1883; Edward FitzGerald died 14 June, and T. wrote to Frederick Pollock: 'I had written a poem to him the last week, which he will never see' (A. M. Terhune, *Life of FitzGerald*, 1947, p. 344). T. therefore concluded *Tiresias* by returning to FitzGerald and mourning his death (below). The poem, one of the finest of T.'s epistles, recalls the last visit by T. and H.T. to FitzGerald in Sept. 1876, as H.T. points out. For T.'s change of conception, see ll. 50-6n (*H.Nbk* 46).

Old Fitz, who from your suburb grange,
Where once I tarried for a while,
Glance at the wheeling Orb of change,
And greet it with a kindly smile;
5 Whom yet I see as there you sit
Beneath your sheltering garden-tree,
And while your doves about you flit,
And plant on shoulder, hand and knee,
Or on your head their rosy feet,
10 As if they knew your diet spares
Whatever moved in that full sheet
Let down to Peter at his prayers;
Who live on milk and meal and grass;
And once for ten long weeks I tried
15 Your table of Pythagoras,
And seemed at first 'a thing enskied'

197. 2. Cp. *The Making of Man* 6: 'a glory slowly gaining on the shade'.
198. 1. grange: FitzGerald's home, Little Grange, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
3. the wheeling Orb: as in *On golden evenings* (1827), by T.'s brother Charles.

11-12. *Acts* x 11-13: 'And a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter: kill, and eat.'

13. Pythagoras's vegetarianism is connected with the belief that the transmigration of souls included animals.

suggests composition before 1842, and its triplets are those of *The Two Voices* and *Stanzas* (both 1833).

He clasps the crag with crookèd hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ringed with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
5 He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

200 *Early Spring [1833]

Printed inaccurately by T. J. Wise, *Bibliography of Tennyson* (1908), i 267-9; then printed by Sir Charles Tennyson, *Cornhill* cliii (1936) 441-3. The text below is from Heath MS, c. 1833. It is an early version of *Early Spring* [1883] (p 1314.); T. was to add four stanzas, omit stanzas II, IV, VI, VIII, IX, and revise and rearrange the others. A draft of 1833 in *T.Nbk 17* (which may not be quoted) approximates to *Heath MS*, but has two extra stanzas, deleted: one, ll. 7-12 of 1883; the other, describing the birds. The shorter draft in *H.Nbk 13* (1833) is in four-line stanzas, e.g. the first stanza consists of ll. 3-6; for its lines additional to *Heath MS*, see l. 6 \wedge 7n.

Once more the Heavenly Power
Makes all things new,
Bows over red-plowed hills
The loving blue;
5 The blackbirds have their wills,
The throistles too.

¶ 199.1. *crookèd* 1865; *hookèd* 1851-63. The original reading is even closer to *Aeneid* vi 360: *prensantemque uncis manibus capita aspera montis* ('I caught with bent fingers at the rugged cliff-peaks').

4. *The wrinkled sea*: occurs in *Two Visits to a Grave*, by T.'s friend Richard Monckton Milnes, *Athenaeum*, 4 March 1829. (Noted by Joyce Green, *The Development of the Poetic Image in Tennyson*, Cambridge thesis, 1954, p. 178.) Shelley had 'the wrinkled ocean', *Hellas* 139.

6. Cp. *Samson Agonistes* 1695-6: 'as an Eagle / His cloudless thunder bolted on thir heads'.

¶ 200.6 \wedge 7] From hidden woodland ways
The airs move
In gushes sweet as praise
From those we love.

Gay looks the girlish year
From winter's foil,
I watch all buds that joy
10 To burst the soil,
Earnest as redbreasts eye
The delver's toil.

My leaping blood obeys
The season's lure!
15 My heart looks down and up
Serene, secure,
Warm as the crocus cup,
Like snowdrops, pure!

From her good works the Spring
20 Her welcome earns:
With air she fills my bones:
My quick ear learns
Her millions of half tones
That trill by turns.

Hearing thy chuckled note,
O twinkling bird,
My tricky fancies range,
And, lightly stirred,
Ring little bells of change
30 From word to word.

Ah! lightest words are lead,
Gross to make plain
Myriads of hints of things
That orb and wane,
35 Before a gnat's quick wings
Beat once again.

The winding dales unroll
Their carpets bright,
Like a dove's neck my soul
Reflects the light. *H.Nbk 13*

At this point, *T.MS* has, deleted, ll. 7-12 of *Early Spring* [1883].
11-12. Adapted, as Sir Charles Tennyson notes, for *Marriage of Geraint* 774: 'As careful robins eye the delver's toil'. G. G. Loane compares the line from *Geraint* with Pope: 'In vain the observer eyes the builder's toil' (*Echoes in Tennyson*, 1928, p. 11).
27. *tricky*: playful; cp. (with l. 30) 'a tricky word', *Merchant of Venice* III v 63.

- Past, Future sparkle linkt
 By some light spell,
 Charms, touches, mysteries
 40 Words may not tell,
 Faint, fragile sympathies
 In sound and smell!
- O fullness of the worlds!
 O termless field,
 45 Relation, difference,
 Not all concealed,
 Fair feast of every sense
 In part revealed.
- O soul reflecting forms
 50 Of this wide beach,
 Comparing at thy will
 Each form with each,
 Let tears of wonder fill
 Thy void of speech.

201 *'This Earth is wondrous,
 change on change'

Unpublished, except that *Mem.* i 40 printed ll. 21–8, as *The Moon*. Text from *H.Nbk* 16, which indicates composition in 1833.

- This Earth is wondrous, change on change,
 All coloured, beautiful and bright,
 Almost almighty to fulfil
 All comprehension of delight,
- 5 And yet because free space is left
 And spreads and rounds her everywhere,
 My freakish fancy sometimes fumes
 And flits and leaves her hung in air,
- And in a twinkle flashing up
 10 Through fifty miles of atmosphere
 I hit my head against the moon,
 Turn on my legs and walk the sphere.

44. *termless*: boundless.

47] Great banquet of the sense *Heath MS* 1st reading.

- Quicker than Dan O'Rourke I fly,
 Or Jack that up the beanstalk borne
 15 Grasping the large pods one by one
 Crept up and clutching caught her horn.
- Jack lied: for horns the moon hath none:
 Nor could I find from North to South,
 That old one by his bunch of sticks,
 20 Who with peas-porridge burnt his mouth.
- But glens I found and sunless gulfs
 Set round with many a toppling spire
 And monstrous rocks from craggy snouts
 Disploding globes of roaring fire.
- 25 Large as a human eye, the Sun
 Drew down the West his feeble light,
 And then a night, all moons, confused
 The shadows from the icy heights.

202 *Lines

Published *Manchester Athenaeum Album*, 1850; not reprinted. In *Mem.* i 161 it is entitled *Mablethorpe*, where the Tennysons stayed: 'A fragment of a poem about Mablethorpe he wrote then', i.e. 1837. But *T.Nbk* 17 includes it along with poems all of 1833; T. was very frequently at Mablethorpe, including in March 1833 (*Mem.* i 100). This draft (which may not be

[201.13. Daniel O'Rourke flew to the moon on an eagle. The legend is in a book T. certainly knew and was to own in the 1834 edn (*Lincoln*): T. C. Croker's *Fairy Legends* (1825), which links the other men in the moon with O'Rourke.

21. *But*] *H.MS*; *Deep Mem.* *sunless gulfs*: *Prefatory Sonnet* 14.

23. Cp. Shelley, *Faust* ii 49: 'the giant-snouted crags'.

24. *Disploding*: Milton's 'displode' (*Paradise Lost* vi 605) is the earliest example in *OED*.

24 ^ 5] It were not worth a wise man's while
 To till it, for I saw the whole,
 'Tis nothing but one ashy calx,
 One cinder all from pole to pole. *MS, deleted*

26. *light*] *MS*; *lights Mem.*

27. *a night, all moons*: 'means that when seen from the airless moon all the principal stars and planets would be very large and bright in the black heavens, and strike the eye there as the moon strikes the eye here' (*Mem.* i 40).