

Classic Poetry Series

Henry Lea Twisleton

- poems -

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Henry Lea Twisleton(9 November 1847 - 1900)

Twisleton was a teacher and poet.

Born at Winskill, near Settle, Yorkshire, England, 9th November, 1847.

Arrived in New Zealand, September, 1876; since then engaged in bush work and teaching. The death date is a circa date.

To A Cabbage Rose

Thy clustering leaves are steeped in splendour;
 No evening red, no morning dun,
 Can show a hue as rich and tender
 As thine -- bright lover of the sun!

What wondrous hints of hidden glory,
 Of strains no human lips can sing;
 What symbols rare of life's strange story,
 Dost thou from earth's dark bosom bring!

What elements have made thy sweetness,
 Thy glowing hue, thy emerald stem?
 What hand has fashioned to completeness
 From tiny germ, thy diadem?

Thou art the fair earth's fond expression
 Of tenderness for heaven above --
 The virgin blush that yields confession --
 Thou bright "ambassador of love"!

Fair are thy leaves when summer glowing
 Lies in the lap of swooning spring;
 But where art thou when autumn, blowing,
 Bids youth and tenderness take wing?

Sweet messenger! thou waftest beauty
 Wherever human lives are sown,
 Around the peasant's humble duty
 Or weary grandeurs of a throne.

Transfused through hearts in future ages,
 Thy glowing power anew may shine
 Effulgent in the poets' pages
 Or music's harmony divine.

But not to thee from future glory
 Can shine one added charm or day;
 Sweet is thy life's unwritten story
 Of radiant bloom and swift decay.

Give, then, to vagrant winds thy sweetness,
 Shine, tearful, in the summer shower;
 And, heedless of thy season's fleetness,
 Enrich with joy the passing hour.

Henry Lea Twisleton