The Museum Collection

Light



First in a series of Lecturettes for the advancement of the Order

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Royal Antedituvian Order of Buffaloes, Grand Ledge of England

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R.A.O.B.

G.C.A.

"LIGHT"

A Series of Lecturettes for the Advancement of the Order by Robt. Z. J. Humphrys, C.P.



INTRODUCTION

"LIGHT"

This book in the series of Museum Collections is the latest in a long line of documents I have in my collection of bits and pieces to do with the history of the R.A.O.B. and is copied almost exactly as I can from the original (and very poor) copy, the difference being, that the original booklet size was four inches by six inches and I have enlarged this to fit in with the current size of the Museum Collections.

The typeface has been changed to Bookman Old Style and the size has also been changed to 12 point to make it a lot easier on the eye.

This publication deals with the series of short lectures given by Brother Robert Humphrys, C.P. to Lodges in the Grand Council of Australia.

It is steeped in ancient Egyptian history, and one could be forgiven for thinking it was the work of that prolific writer J. P. Dowling, if it were not for the fact that the author has appended his name.

The dedication which is contained on the page 4 could be given by most of the members of the Order, least of all by me to my wife who has given me the support and encouragement to continue in this direction, even when the odds seemed to be stacked against us.

Apart from one, I have redrawn all the images as the ones in the copy are very poor and not up to the standard that is expected in this type of publication.

Read and enjoy.

Mick Walker ROH, Grand Primo 2006 December 2008

Also available in the Museum Collection series

- No.1 General Laws of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.
- No.2 Minutes and Proceedings of the Finance Committee August 1895.
- No.3 Culshaws Story of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.
- No.4 Claims and Fantasy Part One.
- No.5 Minutes of the first meeting of the Grand Primo Lodge of England.
- No.6 Changi Prisoner of War Lodge No.1.
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- No.8 Ceremony and Chorus.
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- No. 10 The Nine Lectures.
- No.11 Dowlings Origin of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.
- No.12 The Royal Lights.
- No.13 The Mystic Ring.
- No.14 The Old Ritual.
- No.15 League of Light.
- No.16 The York Weston Super Mare.
- No.17 The Seminars.
- No.18 Benevolence.
- No.19 Peter the Hermit.
- No.20 Light.

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"LIGHT"

I dedicate this booklet to the one who has so bravely encouraged in my attendance and studies.

"MY WIFE"

PREFACE

These small essays have been written in the hope that they will be used to explain the "veiled" lessons of our Lodge and its workings.

How often has a lukewarm or stay-away brother been asked why he is not active, and how often has come the reply, "There is nothing in it?"

How often has an interested inquirer approached a member seeking an elementary explanation of our Order, and how often has that "well been dry?"

For experiment, ask any average brother for an explanation, and you witness the frowns and stammerings! An unenlightened enquirer would immediately realise, that the Order had not enlightened THAT brother much, and pass on! Hence the very member we needed would slip away—the intelligent seeker.

The average human of higher intelligence has felt the need of a "Lodge" in its every phase, and when he joins us we continually mention, enlightenment and mysteries, but what a provision is made? Enlightenment rarely eventuates! All he sees, usually, is a "glorified smoke social", and in some cases the S.P. is as conversant with the ceremonies as a parrot. Then, when the candidate (the intelligent seeker) feels we are all "hooey," and bitterly disappointed by the emptiness of the promises of enlightenment and mysteries, transfers his attention to some lodge measuring up to the standard for which he craves, we have lost an excellent member for ever, and have the audacity to ask him why he stays away! Some are straight enough to say they don't desire an overdose of g*****, and the entertainment on the wireless is better! The natural danger, therefore, stands apparent, to wit:— Those who like the overdose

of g***** remain, and as "birds of a feather flock together", we regrettably start off out of step. As "like gathers like", look at the candidates from then on! Finally, look at the result in those meetings, the slur on our glorious Order, and the uphill fight of the steady lodge next door trying to live down that slur from its sister lodge.

And yet, brothers, what a wonderful Order it really is! From time to time I hope to place before my Grand Council little groups of essays proving to all that not a single possession, nor an appointment, title, placing, custom (orthodox) nor action which has not its specific purpose and deep symbolic value! After considerable study, I still feel incompetent for the great task before me, and probably before I have completed many series, I could add many beautiful sentiments to these early attempts!

When the Grand Council of Australia thinks I have placed sufficient work into the symbols, etc., to allow a temporary respite, I hope to attack the slur of the "1822 band of drunken actors".

A further inducement to these studies is that I maintain that lodge members have not sufficient depth for scientific thought and mystery to keep them enthusiastic, and that a thrill of ancient mystery will bind and hold members if added to the ordinary enjoyments. Those who are absent from our meetings—I appeal to you all! Those differences are small and human, those words still fresh in all memories, "Nemo Mortalium Omnibus Horus Sapit!" Your chairs are vacant your Brethren miss you and need you! Come back! Many of you are our best, and if you will help, we can place this seed on fertile ground where it will grow into beautiful bloom, giving pleasure to all who appreciate the best in "Nature", that cultivated by loving

hands its improved seed may diffuse throughout the world, spreading harmony and philanthropy wherever it goes!

And so S.T.B.!

Yours in all sincerity,

ROBT. Z. J. HUMPHRYS, C.P.



"ENLIGHTENMENT!"

In ancient Egypt knowledge was only transmitted to men whose worth had been proved by a series of tests! (Does that appeal to members of our inquiry committee?) This transmission took place in temples, under the name of "Mysteries" and the Adept (one qualified or versed or in possession), assumed the title of Priest or initiate!

We are liable to have a misconception of both words Priest or initiate today, because we are liable to connect the first solely with religious orders, and recognise the second solely as the candidate!

For many ages in ancient Egypt (and, in fact, nearly all countries) no section of the community was as learned as its Priests. The same could be said of the early Christian era, and in many cases is true to the present day; but in ancient ages the fact was more definite, as they were the only learned section, and being the brains of their community were also the government.

As proof, today we coin the word "Minister" as the head of a government department! The deduction is too simple to need enlarging. The Priest was comparatively on the same plane as "Primo" in our Order, the junior "Adept!" If we look at a dictionary today, we find that the "initiate" means: One who is, or is to be, initiated. This word, therefore, sets up a positive and a negative. Hence it would be correct to say "the initiate, initiates the initiate!" And so we have an explanation of initiation ceremony or first introduction.

History tells us that the Initiates (in possession) fearing that their knowledge might be lost to mankind, made strenuous efforts to effect its survival. Amongst two other systems they inaugurated "Secret Societies" as a direct method of assuring continuation of the "Mysteries".

Their fears were well founded and proved their great wisdom, because for many centuries the world had to rely on the writing of Herodotus, a Greek historian and philosopher of the middle ages, for all the ancient Egyptian history. The excavators unearthed a wealth of ancient hieroglyphics, but none could decipher them, and today we would probably have been very doubtful of the misty past if the position had not been clarified by a great discovery.

In 1799 a French officer serving under Napoleon found a flat slab of stone about thirty miles outside Alexandria in Egypt. This stone, since known to the world as the Rosetta Stone, was engraved with three different inscriptions: one in hieroglyphics (ancient Egyptian or Maya picture writing) one in demotic character (popular writing as used by the people of Egypt from about six or seven centuries B.C.) and the other in Greek writing. The Greek inscription proved to be a decree relating to one of the late rulers of Egypt, Ptolemy V. (205-181 B.C.) and the other two were translations of it.

Thus, scholars had placed in their hands, a key to the forgotten languages of very ancient Egyptian civilisations. By means of that key, they have been able to open wide the doors of the past and a flood of light was poured in where formerly all was mystery and darkness.

In 1802 the British drove the French from Egypt, and so gained possession of the Rosetta Stone. King George III then presented it to the British Museum, and there it is today.



"LIGHT AND DARKNESS"

"He who learns not from the Past Shall be punished by the future!" —Quotation.

I will quote you the words you know so well:- "... but the darkness of ignorance, and the prejudices emanating therefrom have caused them, at times, to be temporarily hidden from the world, but, (I am happy to inform you) that darkness has to a great extent been dispelled and those prejudices removed by the formation of missionary lodges!"

What stands apparent in that passage? "Something" was hidden! Later, 'Something" was brought to the light again!! How? The word "missionary" meaning in this sense to propagate a mission or message by authority. To hand down—to teach—to diffuse—to disseminate through natural generation or reproduction, some teaching, learning, science, "principles", "symbols" or "influences", etc.. which are of higher importance.

Since the beginning man has always realised his limitations and has longed for that "something" which is surrounded with the veil of unenlightenment! "We know not whence we came! We know not whence we go!" At least all mankind have had that in common. The best of our enlightenment is gained from ancient biblical or historical research.

From the earliest dawn of man's intelligence he has believed that round him the forces of Light and Darkness were each led by One who is a distinctive Individual, commanding the countless forces of lesser powers who fight under His banner. In ancient Egypt they told of the struggles of Osiris the Sun against Typhon who was

darkness. Under different names followed other beliefs, such as Norse mythology, the legends of Greece and Rome, with their gods and demigods, and to the writings of the Hebrew and the Christian.

Thus we get the universal acceptance of the existence of two great powers, which is responsible for the Eastern legends, the wizards, the gnomes and brownies, the elves and little folk lore, the good and bad fairies, the nursery tales, the guardian angels, the guides of the Spiritualist, the Saints of the Church.

Each community and each age, from the beginning to the present day, have recognised certain "symbols" and "influences". Every month of the year derives its position from the Zodiac, every day of the week its name from the names of the gods of Norse. Symbols, too numerous to enumerate, have been handed down from ancient days, and are used ignorantly by many today, yet have beautiful thoughts attached to them. Those who scoff at symbols and influences "live a lie!" If only they knew it, every action and every belief they have will prove it.



"LIGHT AND COLOUR"

Let us temporarily forget our supposed superiority of today, and go back to the dim, distant past, and what we find will astonish even such superior, educated, egotistical beings as would lend themselves to destructive criticism, and leave all as barren as themselves.

We are liable to think of the ancients as primitive! Once they were! But there came a time when wonders were performed which have the world marvelling today. Science has proved that colossal civilisations of antiquity possessed Science, Universities and Schools.

Feats of art, engineering, science and chemistry, etc., were performed that we with all our modern conveniences and appliances cannot perform today.

For instance, can we today temper gold? Can we today reduce gold to dust? Can we today produce colours as lasting as the artists of old? Are the engineers of today still marvelling as to how certain past feats were performed? Can we produce any greater marvels of perfect citizenship and healthy cities of luxury than some of the famous ancients?

It is only recently that we could flash news from one end of India to the other without wires, whereas we are told that during the early advent of our civilisation there, news was instantly known hundreds of miles away by certain mysterious Syrians. How? Perhaps by telepathy? Today analysts can tell us what are the ingredients of water or milk, etc. but give scientists and chemists all our advanced assistance and can they shake them? The knowledge is called "synthesis!" The ancient teachings had this branch of knowledge predominating. Can we prove that they never made water or milk at any past age? If so, produce this bold "archaeologist-scientist!"

Therefore, if these ancient civilisations were so advanced, what of their moral and social side? Often most exemplary and praiseworthy! Would they not also have lodges or secret societies? Yes, they certainly did, and we have proofs! Those we will produce when we fight the "1822" slur, in a booklet later!

It is usually accepted that certain colours are lucky or unlucky to certain individuals, or rather that they are harmonious or inharmonious as the case may be.

The belief in the influence of colour is no wild superstition; it is founded on the knowledge of the vibrations of light which in recent times has conceived the theory that colour and sound are so closely related that the one can be actually conveyed by the other.

Apparently television has been partly anticipated, by the use of such slang sayings, as "loud colour", "loudly dressed", etc., or that "it shouts at you".

Astrologically, each of the planets as well as each sign of the Zodiac has a particular colour assigned to it, and that colour is supposed to be harmonious to those born under the influence of the planet or sign. Save in very few instances, we have no means of knowing the course of reasoning by which the colours were originally assigned. We can only accept the majority of statements as they have come to us, recognising that they are the fragments of wisdom of other times, and put them to practical tests by comparing them with our knowledge and experience.

It is most assuredly certain that every individual has an inborn dislike for certain colours and a leaning towards others. Some people are most at home in gaily furnished rooms, others prefer dark appointments and semi-drawn blinds, and each person so has the desire or appreciation of taste for their colour, that it is at all times apparent. Of course there are variants! But certainly common to all is the fact that they are all the happier, healthier, and more contented, and better able to do good work, and to enjoy life, when in the particular surroundings that are harmonious—though why some colours should be discordant to one set of people, and the reverse to others, we apparently have no means of knowing—yet. We can broadly say "nerves" etc., others may ignorantly say "fancy!" Neither would be conclusive! Today probably no medical man of standing will deny that colour does play an important part in healing, and that it is particularly useful in nerve trouble and insanity. Here, then, is absolute proof that colour influence is an actual and scientific fact, indeed the more the subject is studied the farther removed from fantasy it becomes. And if that is allowed, it opens the door to a clearer understanding of other vibrations, other influences, which being more symbolic are less easy for us to understand, and yet whose existence cannot be denied.

The subject of "light" we need not dwell on, suffice it to say that if there were no sun, there would be no light, no life!! Can you wonder that the ancients and in many cases the Easterners were tempted to bow down before it and "greet the East!"



"OUR ROYAL CANDLES" "LIGHT! LET HIM BEHOLD IT!"

First impressions last longest. When the newly initiated candidate first sees, he naturally immediately looks directly at the S.P. and the impressions he has been gathering, throughout the ceremony, of that Officer, are endorsed or corrected by the picture before him. The first glance from him would be at the humans before him. The second at the lights.

The former are real, and he is quite capable of assessing their value, but the latter are symbolic, and he cannot know or appreciate the true value of those without aid. Regrettably few of the brethren know what wonderful lessons there stand veiled before us, and I am proud that the first symbol presented holds, possibly, pride of place. It is the symbol of our "Mystic Star", and to many is known as King Solomon's Seal, although it probably dates back before the reign of that great Monarch.

On studying the candles, we find that one is red and one blue, and, that four appear—(two on each rostrum)—a red on the right, and a blue on the left of the S.P.; a red on the left, and a blue on the right of the C.M.

Modern science states that all phenomena can be traced to two points: the things we sense with our eyes, smell or taste, hearing or feeling, or revolve in our minds—(reasoning)—without one single exception in the line of causation, are simply variants of positive or negative in nature. Therefore the R.A.O.B. Lodge, as a symbol of the Universe, is supported at one end by the S.P., and at the other by the C.M.

Every brother realizes that one of the greatest forces in the world is electricity, and that there is a positive or negative to it all. Where colour is placed on the terminal of a battery, the positive is always marked red. The natural course is for positive to flow to negative, so if the red light, (positive or male) flows to the blue, (negative or female) we form a complete circuit M thus.



Between the rostrums the lights must cross, and that point is called the metastasising point (marked M).

Here should be placed the royal making chair, as the four lights being higher than the initiate the metastasising point must in a symbolic sense, . . . directly over the initiates head. This point in Egypt was called the eye of Osiris; and to the Hindoo, the eye of Siva, the Hindoo God who was always represented in mythology as being accompanied by a bull or buffalo. So that to us it would be symbolical of the eye of God searching into the soul of the initiate while he is being enlightened.

Therefore to place the royal making chair anywhere else would be unorthodox, and non-symbolic. To be true to Buffaloism, or even true to logic and balance, we must be true to its every symbol.

In passing it may be well to remark that the saying. "bull's eye", so commonly used on the rifle range, derives its origin from the ancients. Osiris was supposed to have His earthly representation as a bull or buffalo, and was the giver of all, and the God supreme, the perfect! Hence the naming of a "perfect" shot as a "bull's-eye".

Coming again to our lodge we find that right throughout our ceremonies we continually exhibit a cross. Think of our link, of the crossing of the pipes, the constable's tools, the sign of fidelity. As an emblem of occult and sacred mysteries, the cross was venerated long before the Christian era, and has been found amongst the remains of the oldest races of man of whom we have knowledge. When the Spaniards landed in Mexico, they were amazed to discover that the Indians, who had never heard of Christianity, held the cross as their most sacred symbol. To them it was the sign of the God of Rain. In the second century, when the attitude of prayer was to stand with the arms out-stretched, Justin the Martyr wrote:— "The sign of the cross is impressed on the whole of nature. There is hardly a handicraftsman also, but uses the figure of it amongst the implements of his industry. It forms part of man himself as may be seen when he raises his hands in prayer".

Mummification started in Egypt about 2,000 B.C., was abolished about 700 AD., at the time of the Mohammedan conquest. Excavators inform us that the mummies always had their hands crossed.

So, coming again to our four lights, they provide the first symbolic lesson to our Order, and, explaining the whole of natural phenomena, provide the "key" to unlock the whole of our symbolic Order!

These four lights represent also the four degrees of our Order, and could also represent North, East, West and South, which again gives us the cross;



Also the first letters of the words gives us N.E.W.S. or enlightenment.

In ancient days, red was the colour of magic. Today we have a saying, a "red rag to a bull". We are told that often in ancient ages, when a slave was sold, the bargain had to be signed in blood to make it binding.

Imperial decrees in China are written in "red" ink. Our own Royal Seal is affixed in "red" wax. The Maoris have red prominent in the ceremonies attending the death and burial of any great chief. The house, the carved post before his door, any spot where the corpse is rested, and the cloth wrapping his body, exhibit red.

In Southern India, crops are supposed to be protected from blight by the erection of standing stones painted red, in each field. The wise mothers sometimes believe in the red flannel for illness. The Scottish mothers often treat whooping cough with it. It has been said the virtue lay not in the flannel, but in the red colour.

Red was the colour of triumph and victory over all enemies. And in Egypt, red was the sands of the earth. Therefore the red stands for not only positive, but in all cases, earthly.

To the Druids, "Blue" was the sacred colour, because it is the colour of the Holy Virgin. It is also the colour of Venus, the mythical Goddess of Love. In German folk lore, lightning is represented as blue. Also, blue was the colour sacred to Isis. Isis, the cow, was the wife of Osiris the bull, and was the mythical mother of mankind. She was once represented as "veiled", and holding a child in her arms. To her all looked and prayed for the protection of the young.

In all cases it is feminine, and because it is the colour of the summer skies, is connected with all that is celestial and beautiful and, therefore, "divine!"

So ancient civilisations painted things of a divine nature blue, and their teachings have brought that influence down through the ages to the present time.

Therefore, our deductions arrive at earthly and celestial, male and female, positive and negative, red and blue, and Harmony and Philanthropy. By the placing of positions we symbolise the cross sacred to

all mankind, and a properly balanced lodge room with the royal making chair in a specific place for a specific purpose.



"OUR MYSTIC STAR!"

" * * * do not mar,
* * * our Mystic Star!"

Hand in hand with the four candles, rests the explanation of King Solomon's seal, as our Mystic Star is sometimes called by the unenlightened. If we bear in mind the first lesson of our royal candles and remember the diagram of the electric circuit we will immediately realise the diagram consists of two triangles or pyramids, the one upright—the other inverted, thus

The ancients symbolised their main deities ("Osiris" the Bull, the God of Gods; "Isis" the cow, the wife of Osiris, the mother of man; and "Horus" the Divine Son), their Divine Trinity, by a triangle. Therefore, the one triangle is symbolic of Divinity, the other of the Universe and all therein. The one represents the spiritual, the other the material, and if we would blend all into one perfect symbol, we place one within the other thus.

King Solomon, the wise monarch of old, used this symbol as his seal. We find it on the ribbon of the primo's jewel, but often brothers do not realise how the Star originated, and the depth of symbolic value attached to it.

The first perfect form erected in Egypt were the pyramids. When an architect shows a plan, the ground floor is shown:—

the elevation is shown thus,

which brings you again to our lodge, for are not the brethren seated

and our lights, our desire for perfection, our high principles and the elevation of our thoughts formed by the candles thus.

Our ceremony can be likened to the architect's plan in more ways than one for in that initiation ceremony are we not building?

If we look again at the formations, we realise that the whole is formed by or composed of four pyramids, and we realise that the minor lodge, alone, has the privilege in keeping with that plan, as it is the only one in which four degrees of our Order can participate. Like the symbol of our Mystic Star it embraces all!

Before passing from the remarks of the pyramids two thoughts should be written. The first syllable of the word pyramid is "pyr"—the Greek word for "fire!" As for the last syllable it may appeal to the brethren that the big pyramid is equidistant from the North Pole and the centre of the earth! The ancient hieroglyphic for Divinity and the Universe or all gods collectively was and strange to relate, if we quarter the world (north and south poles and the equator), and take a straight line from the north pole to the pyramid (marked P.) and another straight line from the centre of the earth to the pyramid, we find the same hieroglyphic sign of "collective deity" appears within the circumference of the earth! And there

Does that not leave room for thought, brothers? for our Mystic Star is formed by placing one pyramidical

we have again the triangle of divinity!

sign within the other, and derive their joint foundation from the "fires" at our rostrums!

The second thought is that about 5000 B.C., Egypt was divided as Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt. A great chief named Menes arose, and united the two kingdoms about 3500 B.C., and was the first Pharaoh. The word "pharaoh" means "great house". The Great Pyramid at Gizeh was built by Cheops or Khufu, the second and most famous of the kings of the fourth dynasty (or group) about 300 B.C. It was at this time Egypt was probably at its highest level of civilisation.

It is said that it took 100,000 men 30 years to build the Great Pyramid, which covers twelve acres of ground and is more than 450 feet high! (Compare it with some building whose height you know!) Originally it had smooth sloping sides, but the outer casing was long ago destroyed, and the sides now have the appearance of huge steps. We are told that its sides face exactly North, East, West and South, and has an average error in construction of only 1 in 15.000 and of even less in angle! Hence the world gazes today with amazement!

From the North face a narrow passage leads to the sepulchral chambers in the interior. The chamber known as "the king's chamber" is lined with "red" granite! Three reigns after Cheops, Mycerinus ruled, and Herodotus the great, and probably first writer of Egyptian history, says "that he ruled most justly, and that under the rule of these pyramid building kings—rulers of highly efficient autocracy—the people of this commercial country prospered mightily and lived in peace!

At the time of the seventh dynasty (about 2,500 B.C.) this civilisation declined, and followed several centuries of internal disorder.

When "light" again begins to penetrate the darkness (of ignorance!?) we find the eleventh dynasty on the throne,

I have quoted you disinterested history, but these remarks leave food for thought! Again, we find history using the word "light!" We find the "red" king's chamber! We find 'justice" and "peace!" And, above all, we have proven a high intelligence and a moral civilisation! Therefore, what of the unity of men in the form of lodges? Their civilisation was high enough; their moral code was good enough—would their desires not be as our desires?

But I must not infringe on the "1822" attack just yet! Having paused at a beautiful fountain of knowledge (admittedly by the wayside) and two happy thoughts having been explained, let us again travel on to the end of our Star symbol!

When we experiment with the Star by joining the points we have a regular hexagon, and therefore all angles and all sides equal and justly in harmony. Extend each side in both directions until

A it meets the next junction, and again we have

See how again we continually come to positive and negative! Trace back over the building of this wonderful symbol, brothers, and you will see many reasons to make you cherish our Royal Candles and our Mystic Star!

It represents peace and harmony, the "Divine" and the "Material", and like the stars above, higher thoughts and higher aims, reflecting the light of "Sun" we cannot see, the beginning without an ending, all working in perfect harmony. And so we go on, seeking and distributing, following Destiny.

Many symbols have been lost to our Order of recent years, but I am proud, indeed, that this one has been retained. Be warned, brothers, that you consider well and long before you destroy any more. We have many more yet, but probably none better! This one stands for light, for which men have sacrificed their lives; for the learning of the ages, the principles of the universe under the influence of Divinity, and in fact is the symbol of the great "All that is", and beyond this we cannot go!

So, in conclusion, brothers, when you walk into your lodge, when you look at the Mystic Star on the Primo's ribbons, when you witness the Royal Candles and the proceedings attached thereto — remember the lessons of this symbol! Give all your sincerity and respect, and like our learned brothers of old, endeavour to so "fulfil your relative duties", that this world will be the better to live in. "Learn from the past, that you may not be punished by the future".

Endear yourselves to the community you live in, then you will not mar the "glories" of —

OUR MYSTIC STAR.
"Though the day be dark,
And though the day be dreary,
The sun is shining somewhere,
This I know, I know!

And so to keep my heart
From ever growing weary
I'll take my sunshine with me,
Everywhere I go!"

(Au Revoir—pro.tem.)

