

TO MRS. J— C—

A bit of Paradise leans down
To greet the passer-by,
Of green and mauve and snowy
white,
From earth to azure sky.

For years it was a barren cliff
Of gaunt old pines and clay:
The wonder is, what magic made
It bloom in this fair way?

What Aaron's rod smote beauty
thus
From out this barren land?
It was a woman's beauty-sense—
A woman's fostering hand.

As Aaron smote the solid rock,
And gushing freshness flowed
To cheer the weary wanderer
Who trod life's burning road.

So did she work her magic here
Upon this arid cliff,
That erstwhile was all craggy clay
And pines all straight and stiff.

—Hilda von Siller.

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