

WE HAVE BEEN unable to get up any enthusiasm over Sir Edwin Arnold's 'With Sa'di in the Garden' (1): it seems to us to lack interest and to be dry reading. Such portions of the poem as are taken from the Persian are printed in italics, and present to the reader the third chapter of the Bôstân from the text of Sa'di. Reading these quatrains, which are built upon almost the same model as Fitzgerald's Rubâiyât of Omar Khayyâm, one cannot help making a mental comparison between the two, much to the disadvantage of Sa'di and Sir Edwin. Persian names and words are frequently of a poetical quality and quantity, and we do not object to an occasional glimpse of one; but to get a whole pageful at once is like eating printers' pi: it is not easy. In a dozen lines one is introduced to Hathi Pul, Ghuznee, Diwan i-Khas, Diwan-i-Am, Machi Bhawun, Moti-Musjid, Jâhânâra, Itimad-ud-Dowlah, Nourmahal, Sikandra, and Taj-Mahal; and these, too, at the very threshold of the poem. It makes one rather timid about going into the garden with Sa'di unless one has a Persian-English dictionary in his pocket. We object to reading poetry with a dictionary. 'The Light of Asia' we liked; but we fear the Dusk of Persia, even though the Bulbul be singing to cheer us.

'In My Lady's Praise' (2) is the title of a volume of poems written by Sir Edwin 'to the honor of Fanny, Lady Arnold, and now collected for her memory.' Of the poems, which to the author recall tender and cherished memories, it does not become us to speak critically. The book stands entirely apart from the author's other works. It is a labor of love done to perpetuate the memory of that love. The first portion of the collection bears the sub-title 'The Casket of Gems,' so called from the fact that each poem has to do with a particular precious stone; the first letters of the names of these gems spell out Lady Arnold's name. The make-up of the volume is not attractive; but the cover, which is vellum, is chaste and fully in keeping with the tenor of the poetry.

\* 1. With Sa'di in the Garden. By Sir Edwin Arnold. \$1. 2. In My Lady's Praise. \$1.25. By Sir Edwin Arnold. Boston: Roberts Brothers.