The Works of Stefan George

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Marx, Olga and Ernst Morwitz.
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Under boughs, around the lake's
Edge we wander, gently singing,
Linked in happiness and flinging
White dianthus, clover-flakes.

RIPENING

A lavish sound, a throb of triumph swung
Across the grain in furrows late and lush,
The sparing words had not been spoken long
When poignant feeling wound us in its hush.

Where purple flames and perfect yellow merge,
Beside the trellis hung with fruit they slid,
They mounted to the vineyard's jewelled verge,
Where heavy clusters swell for crimson need.

I dared not cling to you, nor you to me
When slanted rays were loosed upon our brow,
Nor yet affirm in clumsy phrase what we
Received with mute delight, what bound us now,

And what in us, when day had quenched its fires,
Climbed to the clouds of lavender and rose,
What more than any dream and all desires
Shed slender glory through the evening glows.

WHITE SONG

For her I shall devise a dream of white:
A fancied castle, dipped in muted rays
And bordered with translucent blossom-sprays —
I see two children limned in early light.

Each carries flowers in a narrow sheaf
Glinted like aspens any breath can rouse,
And in it, higher than their tender brows,
A swinging flag: a silver cockle leaf.