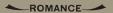
YEARNING



L. M. GOTTSCHALK



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YEARNING.

ROMANCE.

If only you were here to-night; If I might lift mu longing eyes to trace Your dreamy eyes down-looking on my face With their half-veiled, half-smiling tenderness ... And all the quiet world takes on repose,-O first and best and deurest, can you guess How in my lonely heart your altar-flame That I might lean down on your breast, Would leap to sudden glorious fire, and shane What could I ask of sweeter calm or rest? If only you were here?

If only you were here to-night, Herr, close beside me, while the soft rain falls And through the darkness the sweet church-bell calls, O warmest heart! if you were here so close All these sed, darkened hours of fear and blame, Who in Gods happy world could be more blest If only you were here?

> If only you were here to-night, O Lore, My Lore, My Love, so fur from me! Through all dividing space, where'er you be, My winged thoughts fly fast, and far, and free, Seeking, like birds, to find their sheltering nest, O gentle heart, make such a welcome guest! Across the lonely world, I know not where, I send the longing silence of this prayer: If only you were here.

> > Hester A. Benedict.

L. M. GOTTSCHALK.





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