

## FOR A PICTURE OF ROSSETTI<sup>1</sup>

Arthur Symons

Smoke of battle lifts and lies  
Sullen in her smouldering eyes,  
Where are seen  
Captive bales of merchandize.

Here are shudderings of spears,  
Webs of ambush, nets of fears,  
Here have been  
Prisons, and a place of tears.

In her hair have souls been caught;  
Here are snared the strength of thought,  
Pride of craft,  
Here desire has come to nought.

Here not her lips kissed again  
Lips that kissed for love's sake, when  
Her lips laughed  
Like a passing-bell for men?

This is what Rossetti says  
In the crisis of a face.

1. First published in *A Book of Twenty Songs*. London: J.M. Dent, 1905. Rpt. in *The Fool of the World & Other Poems*. London: William Heinemann, 1906. 70.