

BALLADE OF SERIOUS BALLADES

LIGHT verses are these you've been reading—

Slim-waisted and elegant-necked,
As a maiden on water-cress feeding
If a simile splendidly decked
Appeals to your excellent sect)
But humour must pall—it's too true.
I think you ought not to object
To a serious ballade or two.

All folk at odd times may be needing
A voice to advise or protect ;
The heart of a maid may be bleeding ;
The sky of your life may be flecked
With clouds, and you cannot expect
The flowers to grow without dew—
Please listen with proper respect
To a serious ballade or two !

The sprinkling of thought I am seeding
May gather, take root, and reject
The things that would hinder its breeding
(Comme il faut, that's to say, and correct)
And one day you may recollect
That I always said Heaven was blue,
And you owe, that your life is not wrecked,
To a serious ballade or two.

ENVOI

Princess, it is ill superseding
The old and well-tried with the new,
Still, for once, lend your ear not unheeding
To a serious ballade or two.