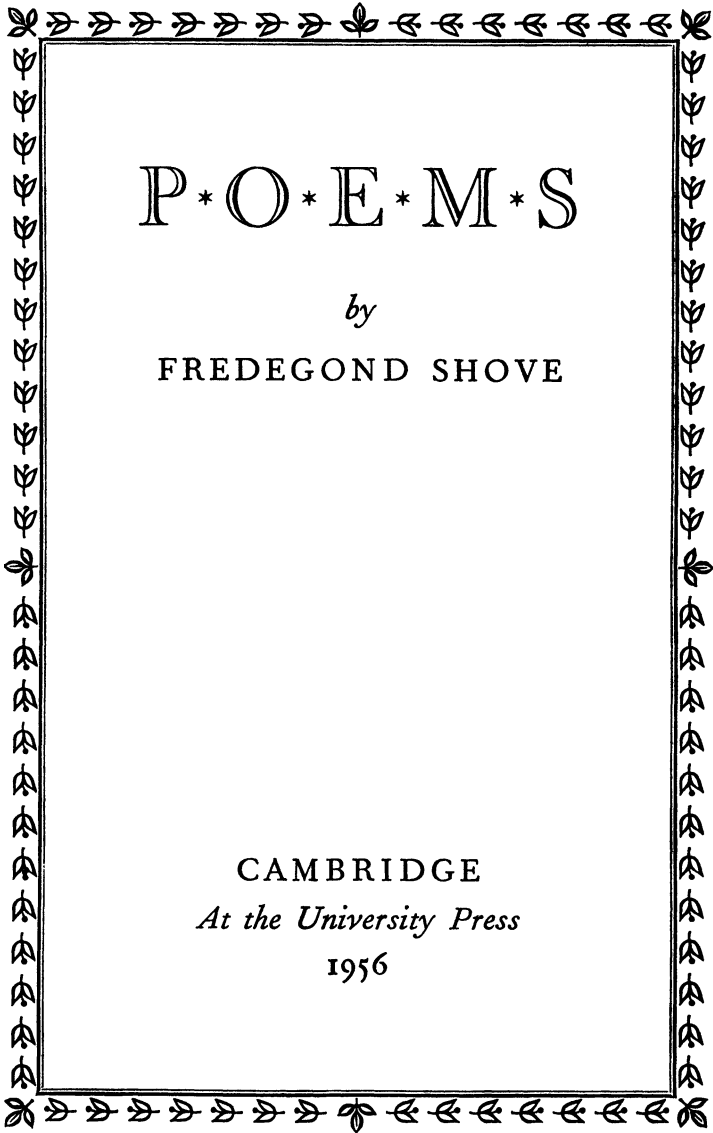


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* From *Dreams and Journeys*

† From *Daybreak*

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FREDEGOND SHOVE

Fredegond Shove was a daughter of Frederic William Maitland, Downing Professor of the Laws of England. During the 1914 war she married Gerald Shove, later a fellow of King's College, Cambridge. She lived in Cambridge for the greater part of her life and died there on 5 September 1949, about two years after the death of her husband.

Her published works were:

Dreams and Journeys (Blackwell, 1918).

Daybreak (The Hogarth Press, 1922).

Christina Rossetti (Cambridge University Press, 1931).

After her death a book called *Fredegond and Gerald Shove* was privately printed. It contained her memoir of Gerald—a memoir full of the happiness of their life together, and some recollections of her own childhood and upgrowing. She told of her earliest sense of 'the Almighty's sheltering roof tree', of the fear that came to her as she viewed the evil of this 'secondary world'. 'I was shocked and sickened at the ways of one world, whilst I clung, ever more secretly, to the faint legacy which the other had left me.' She told also of that day when

at the age of fourteen ‘in the charity of the brown autumn sunlight, I felt myself to be one of those who must try to relate their experiences, and to whom experiences are scenes, colours and sounds always, rather than events or actions.’

The poems in this book have been chosen from her unpublished as well as from her published work. Selection has not been easy owing to the large number of unpublished poems, the need for brevity, the various appreciations of those who have so kindly read through Fredegond’s manuscripts, and my own unpractised discernments. Very few of the unpublished poems are dated but, viewing the whole of her work, one can trace the putting off of Bloomsbury, the putting on of Catholicism, the growing ardour of her love for animals, her deepening fears. In the main, however, time did not alter the experiences she wished to describe, nor her telling.

My cousin Miss Mary Fisher [Mrs Bennett] is joint owner of Fredegond’s manuscripts, and I acknowledge with gratitude her permission to publish, and her help in selection.

I may, perhaps, be forgiven for saying that the surname Shove rhymes with mauve.

ERMENGARD MAITLAND

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