C. V. STANFORD.

THE

VOYAGE OF MAELDUNE

THREE SHILLINGS.

LONDON: NOVELLO, EWER & CO.
THE LIGHT OF ASIA
A CANTATA
THE WORDS FROM THE POEM OF
EDWIN ARNOLD
THE MUSIC COMPOSED BY
DUDLEY BUCK.

Octavo, paper cover, 3s.; paper boards, 3s. 6d.; cloth gilt, 5s.
Vocal Parts, each 1s. 6d.; String Parts, 19s. 6d.; Wind Parts (in the Press).
Full Score, MS.

THE TIMES.
The composer has done well in going to Sir Edwin Arnold’s well-known poem for his
subject, and he has with great ingenuity arranged . . . a libretto that is excellent as a vehicle
for musical treatment. . . . In the opening chorus the composer declares himself as a musician
of earnest aim; its fugal treatment is well carried out. . . . The choruses “Round him delicious
gardens bloom’d” and “O come and see the pleasure of the Spring” are graceful. . . . The
duets between Siddärtha and Yasódhara are full of passion, and the canonic passage in the
second, “When most my spirit wanders,” is so skilfully written that no feeling of dry
scholasticism is produced.

DAILY TELEGRAPH.
One rises from hearing “The Light of Asia” with a sense of charm and satisfaction. To
what is this feeling due? In the first place, to truth of expression. . . . Next, the expression never
goes beyond the necessities of the case, and thus a most important, though much neglected, law
of art is observed. . . . The music is intelligible, and exercises its influence upon the heart
without hindrance from a puzzled head. The work is essentially melodious, being full of tune
which . . . delights the ear, while the choral writing, sometimes vigorously descriptive, has
often a grace and elegance that cannot be resisted.

STANDARD.
The orchestration is admirable, being picturesque without extravagance. In several
numbers a pleasant vein of melody is discernible, the best being the chorus, “O come and
see the pleasure of the Spring,” the wedding chorus, and the bridal duet, in which some
canonic passages are introduced with excellent effect.

MORNING POST.
Mr. Dudley Buck, though well known and honoured in America, has hitherto only been
known in England by his song “When the Heart is Young.” . . . Few, however, even of the
admirers of that ballad were prepared to hear a work so beautiful in its treatment as “The
Light of Asia.” . . . The work itself possesses many qualities which tend to secure popularity.

DAILY NEWS.
The opening chorus, the “Spring song,” the four-part male chorus of councillors, and the
march of Indian maidens round the Prince’s throne, are all excellent. So to a higher degree is
the delicious seven-part chorus which describes the Indian night . . . while in the fine scene of
the temptation the composer is able to indulge in strong contrasts, and to prove his possession
of real dramatic power. . . . The love duet which the Prince and Yasódhara sing at their first
meeting, and the still more beautiful duet sung by the Prince and his wife when he has resolved
upon his “Great Renunciation,” are worthy melodic gems of a purely unconventional order.

DAILY CHRONICLE.
His instrumentation is full, rich, and varied, but never departs from its proper function of
illustrating the scene or situation. It does not attempt to thrust the vocal portion of the score
into the background.

ATHENÆUM.
In “The Light of Asia” Mr. Dudley Buck shows himself a decidedly able musician, the
construction of the various numbers, the part-writing for voices, and the orchestration being
alike excellent. We cannot point to a single flaw of a technical character from first to last.

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