

# Reply of Camoens,

BY

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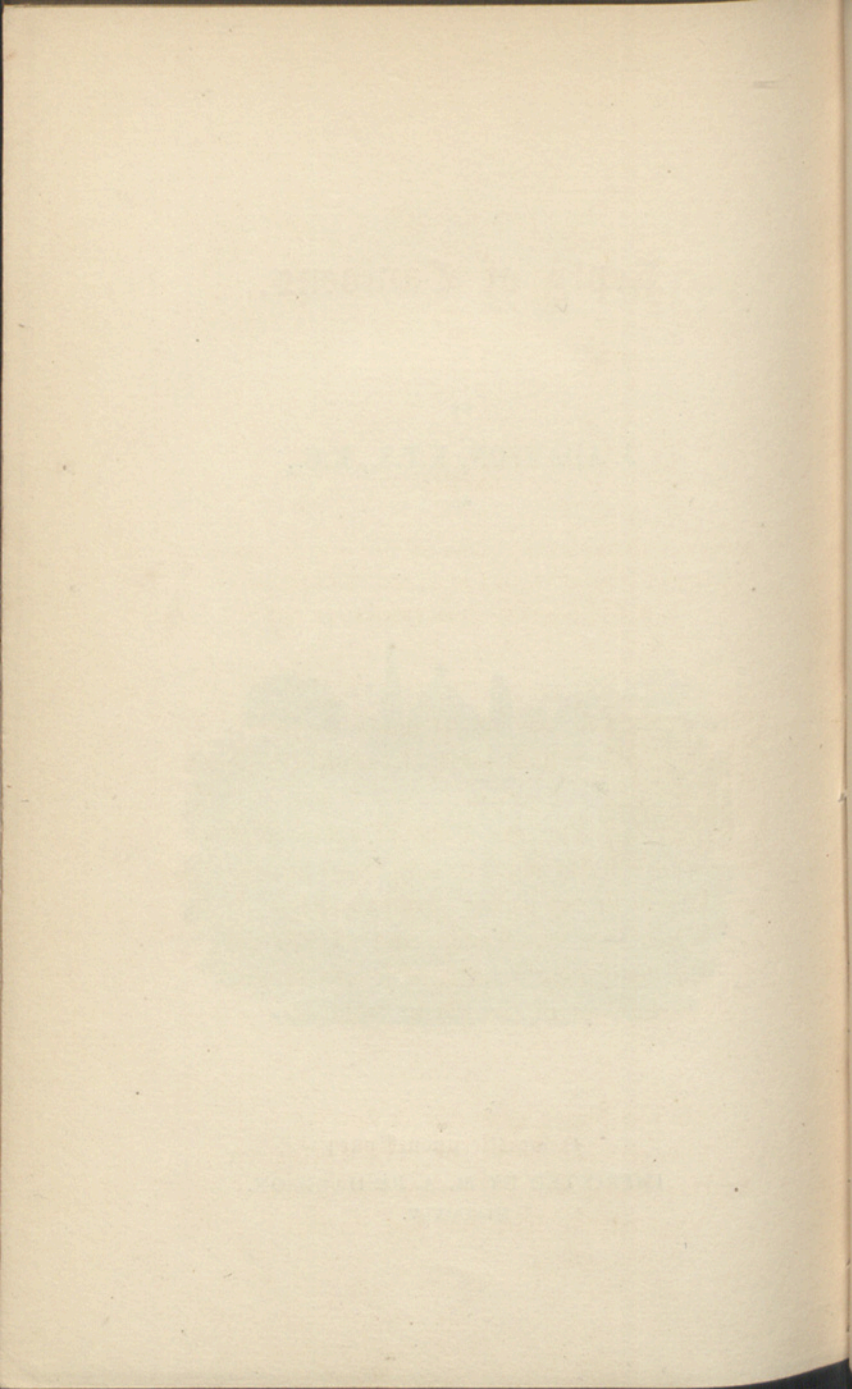
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## Reply

SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY THE PORTUGUESE POET,  
LUIS DE CAMOENS, TO A FIDALGO, WHO REQUESTED  
HIM TO COMPOSE SOME VERSES FOR HIM.



**Y**ou ask me to renew the lays,  
Which erst I made in beauty's  
praise ;  
You say I should again employ  
My muse to sing those themes of joy,  
Which in my earlier—happier day—  
When love was young—and all was gay—  
My heart pour'd forth in joyous strain,  
Unconscious of the ills in train.

Ah you forget that day is flow'n !  
This stricken heart, by grief o'erthrown,  
Has ceas'd to throb with soft desire,  
My unstrung harp has lost its fire.

Friendless I am—of care the prey—  
How may I your behest obey—  
Now want I feel—now sadness prove—  
Then was I blest with Lady's love.

Behold that kind and faithful slave,  
Who comes a coin or two to crave,  
A fire to light whose genial glow  
Might make this blood more quickly flow.  
Alas I have no coin to give,  
I lack the means whereby to live;  
And death will soon in mercy close  
A scene beset with nought but woes.





