To Shottery From Stratford-upon-Avon.

How many pilgrims made this act of faith And got no sign: continuing forlorn Along the path four hundred years have worn Still hoping for the whisper of a wraith? Seeing old Mole, unheeding, working fast, How many held their breath but heard no sigh, And looking upward to this English sky Saw no strange cloud? How many passed Beside these ordinary fields of grain And smelt these common smells and heard the breeze, Empty of glory, crying in these trees, And vowed that they would come this way again? We, made of dreams, though dreams dissolve in tears, Will walk this smile through all the coming years.

Marion B. Alford

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