



*In the Garden at Biltmore House*  
Asheville, North Carolina  
Photo by Dan Hardison

## The Gentle Gardener

*Edgar A. Guest*

I'd like to leave but daffodils  
to mark my little way,  
To leave but tulips red and white  
behind me as I stray;  
I'd like to pass away from earth  
and feel I'd left behind  
But roses and forget-me-nots  
for all who come to find.

I'd like to sow the barren spots  
with all the flowers of earth,  
To leave a path where those who come  
should find but gentle mirth;  
And when at last I'm called upon  
to join the heavenly throng  
I'd like to feel along my way  
I'd left no sign of wrong.

And yet the cares are many  
and the hours of toil are few;  
There is not time enough on earth  
for all I'd like to do;  
But, having lived and having toiled,  
I'd like the world to find  
Some little touch of beauty  
that my soul had left behind.