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L'Alte Torri

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Cover Page Footnote

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L'ALTE TORRI

A mountain built of turrets trembling tall,
yet none of them dwarfed nor lacking ornament,
weakened, but 'stablished on a marshy quag,
a slag which oozes from beneath the towers—
those gloriously latticed and colorfully arrayed
structures which the mind connives
resting on a damp and dangerous muck,
which does not crash them down the ground.
The land is loosely based, braced
as it makes the towers tilt or sway,
but always retains the turrets tall.

But tumbling towers come pushed by more
than one, crumbling, crashing in a
cacophonous roar, that shocks one to horr'r,
despair, and anxiety to regain it all.
But it's lost; and they did stand upon sand.
They were trembling but always there,
tall towers; now the cold truth
they were not towers tall.

The new looks aright, landed
on unshifting turf and no dread that
these towers are mere phantoms, hollow shells.
Though they be meager, meaner
stuff they're made. The worker worked them all,
turrets standing a smaller tall.

—R. WAHL, *C.S.B.*