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My Conversion

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My Conversion

Cover Page Footnote

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Spring the First

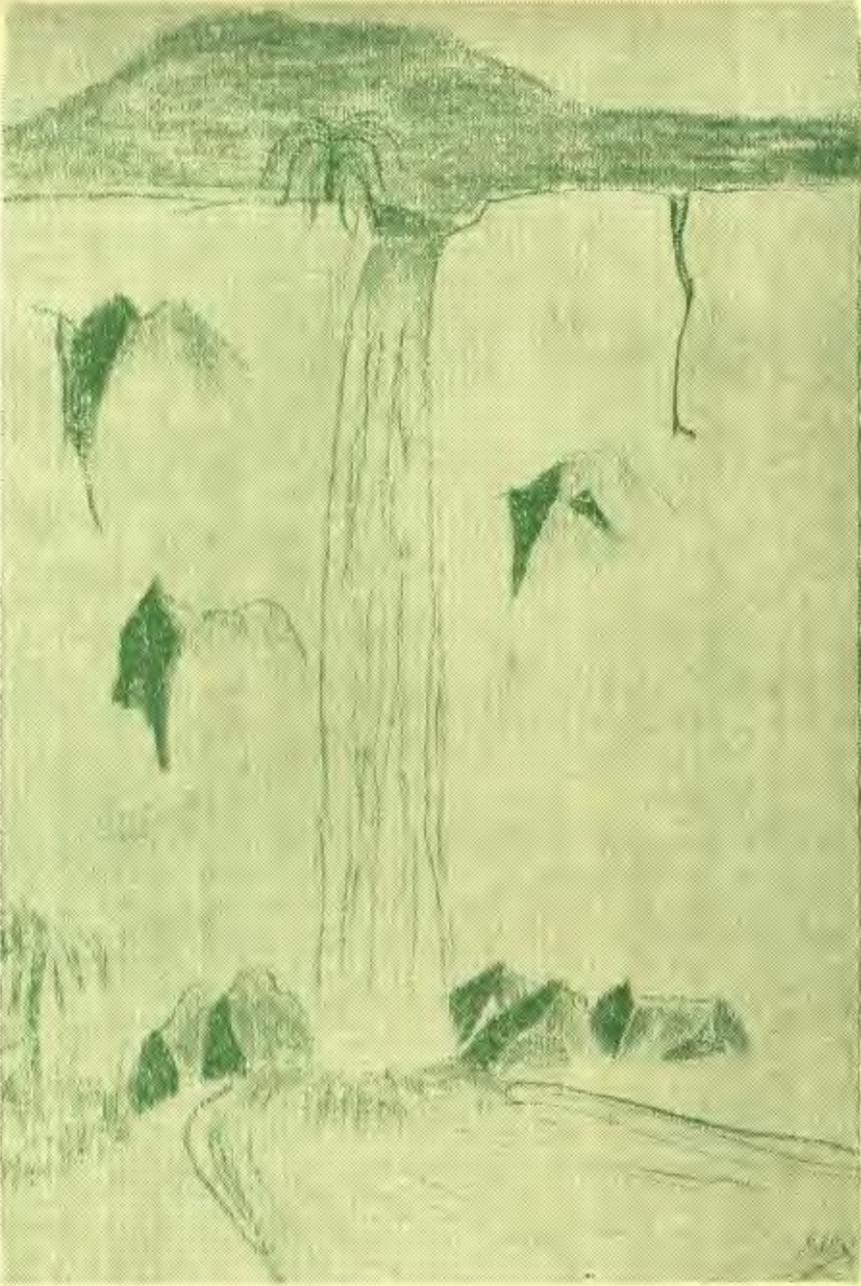
MY CONVERSION

What is all this talk of spring
 When May endures our hopes to bring
 New things to touch and
 New faces to see.
 I have responded to stronger hopes
 And regarded newer and better joys
 to be honest
 beauty has stepped in before
 and cast the spell to me:

I saw a child and he sat on my knee
 As I once did
 When we sat along those banks and watched
 The barges churn water
 (but that was when the fish weren't jumping)
 because we were buddies
 him and me.

These lines were made when I was ten.
 What could prescribe a new hope
 If brought back again
 They could only be
 The other times that weren't like that
 though only memory searches the spirit
 you see:
 I have given all to the other three
 But only spring gives all to me.

—RONALD ASHE



*I do not know much about gods; but I think that the river
Is a strong brown god—sullen, untamed and intractable . . .*