

**THE STATUES IN THE
BLOCK, AND
OTHER POEMS**

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The statues in the block, and other poems by John Boyle O'Reilly

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JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY

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STATUES IN THE BLOCK,
AND OTHER POEMS.

BY
JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

THIRD EDITION.

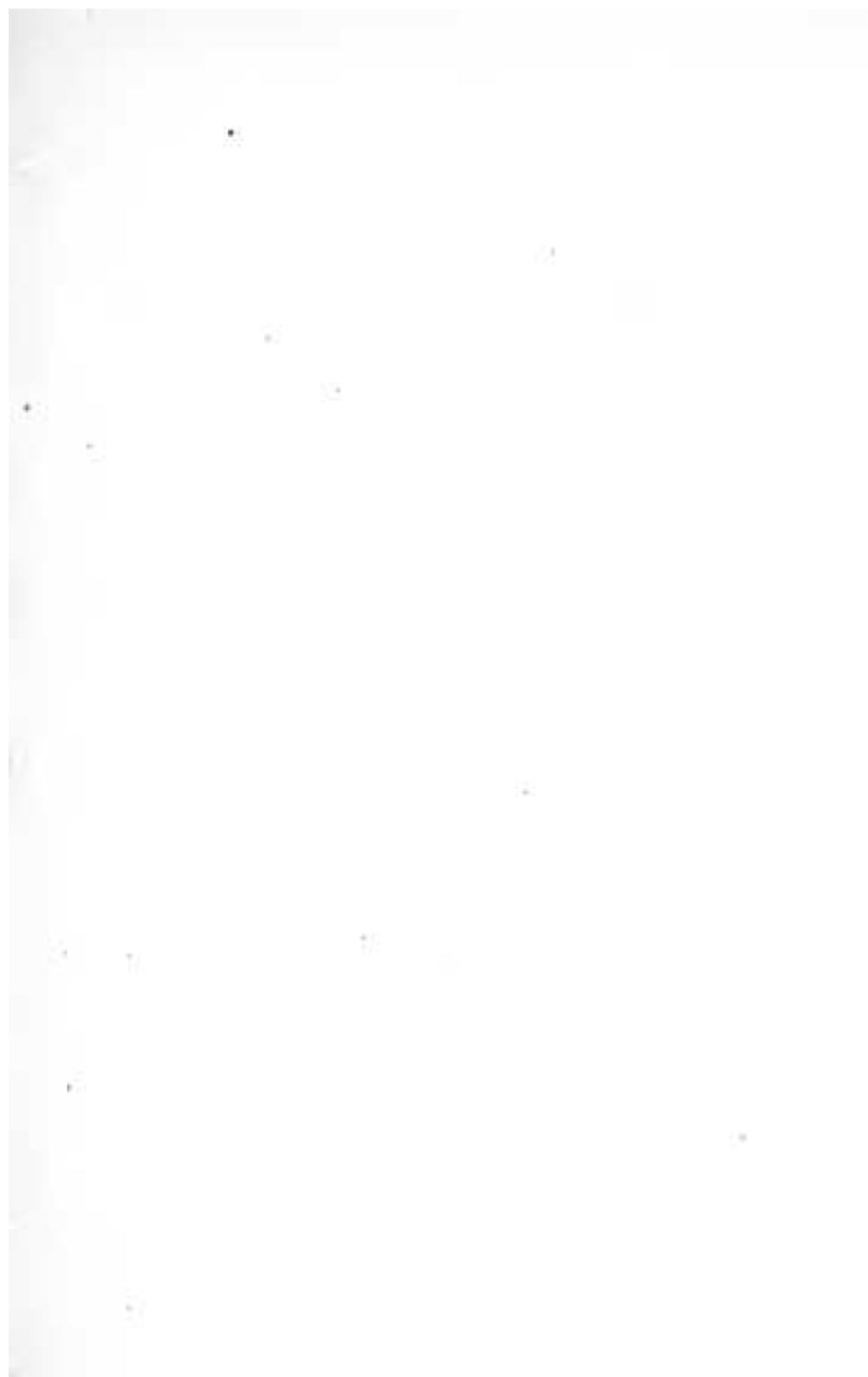
BOSTON:
ROBERTS BROTHERS.

1884.

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POEMS.

*Life is a certainty,
Death is a doubt ;
Men may be dead
While they 're walking about.
Love is as needful
To being as breath ;
Loving is dreaming, —
And waking is death.*

THE STATUES IN THE BLOCK.

“**L**OVE is the secret of the world,” he said ;
“The cup we drain and still desire to drink.
The loadstone hungers for the steel ; the steel,
Inert amid a million stones, responds to this.
So yearn and answer hearts that truly love :
Once touch their life-spring, it vibrates to death ;
And twain athrill as one are nature-wed.”

But silent stood the three who heard, nor smiled
Nor looked agreement. Strangers these who stood
Within a Roman studio — still young,
But sobered each with that which follows joy
At life's fresh forenoon, and the eye of each