

**THE TESTIMONY OF  
THE SUNS, AND  
OTHER POEMS. [1907]**

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The Testimony of the Suns, and Other Poems. [1907] by George Sterling

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**BY  
GEORGE STERLING**

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**SAN FRANCISCO  
A. M. ROBERTSON**

**1907**

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DEDICATION

TO AMBROSE BIERCE

*Ah! glad to thy decree I bow,  
From whose unquestioned hand did fall,  
Beyond a lesser to recall,  
The solemn laurels on my brow.*

*I tremble with the splendid weight.  
To mine unworth 't is given to know  
How dread the charge I undergo  
Who claim the holy Muse as mate.*

*Her altars lift incessant fire;  
She holds no truce with Death nor Peace;  
Till mind degrade and beauty cease,  
She calls her chosen to the Lyre.*

## DEDICATION

*Remiss the ministry they bear  
Who serve her with divided heart;  
She stands reluctant to impart  
Her strength to purpose, end, or care.*

*Shall best I guard her hallowed light  
By sheltered service on her tow'rs,  
Or strife with Mammon and the pow'rs  
That hold humanity in night?*

*I loose the choral trumpet's gleam,  
But half its thunder leave untried;  
Midway on doubting vans I glide,  
Nor hasten to the heights of dream.*

*A shadow o'er the vision runs:  
I hear a grieving from the lands  
Where Sorrow heavy-sceptred stands,  
And moanings from the mist of suns.*

## DEDICATION

*Lo! men in weariness behold  
No respite from the toils of Time.  
Their children wander in the slime  
Round Mammon's domes of plundered gold,*

*And taste the bitterness of dearth.  
Must they beyond my conscience wait,  
Or lack my voice as advocate  
To cry their wrongs athwart the earth?*

*Shall Song, delinquent, win from life  
The light and rapture that she knows,  
And sleep at last where Lethe flows,  
A stranger to the human strife?*

*Shall Art fare surward, and disdain  
The patient hands that smooth her ways?  
Shall she, delighting, scorn to raise  
The fallen on their path of pain?*