

# **POEMS. [1852]**

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Poems. [1852] by Richard Henry Stoddard

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**RICHARD HENRY STODDARD**

**POEMS. [1852]**



THESE POEMS  
ARE DEDICATED TO MY FRIEND,  
BAYARD TAYLOR,  
WHOM I ADMIRE AS A POET,  
AND LOVE AS A MAN.

R. H. S.

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88  
89  
90  
91  
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93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100

101

102

103

104

## CONTENTS.

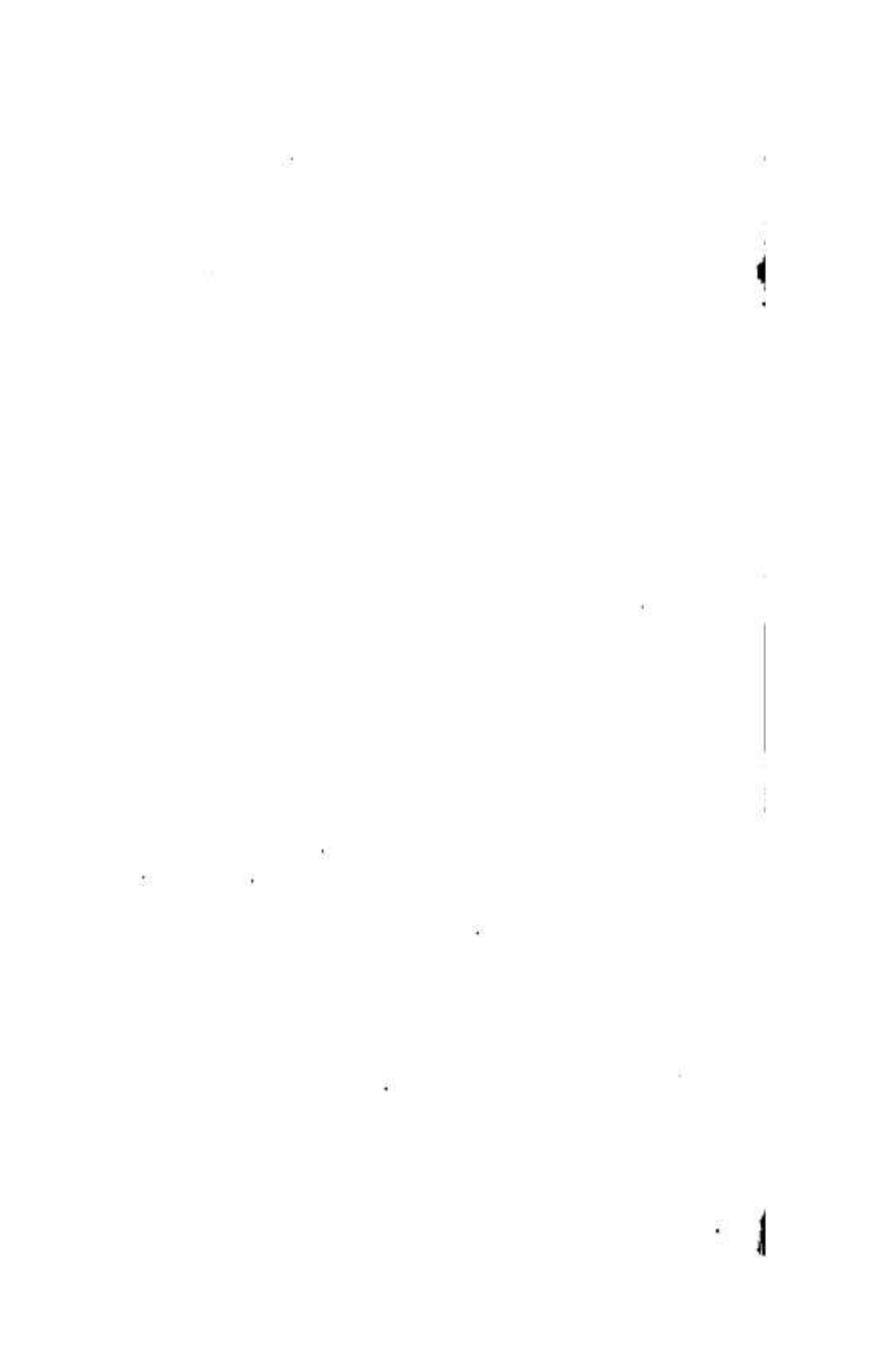
	PAGE
THE CASTLE IN THE AIR . . . . .	3
ARCADIAN HYMN TO FLORA . . . . .	21
ODE . . . . .	31
LEONATUS . . . . .	37
SPRING . . . . .	48
AUTUMN . . . . .	47
THE WITCH'S WHEEL . . . . .	51
HYMN TO THE BEAUTIFUL . . . . .	54
TO A CELEBRATED SINGER . . . . .	59
THE TWO GATES . . . . .	63
THE BROKEN GOBLET . . . . .	65
ARCADIAN IDYL . . . . .	70
THE SOUTH . . . . .	74
TRIUMPHANT MUSIC . . . . .	77
MEMORY . . . . .	80
HARLEY RIVER . . . . .	86
THE BLACKSMITH'S SHOP . . . . .	86
THE OLD ELM . . . . .	89
LU LU . . . . .	92
KAM POU . . . . .	93
A HOUSEHOLD DINGE . . . . .	96

## SONGS AND SONNETS.

"HOW ARE SONGS BEGOT AND BRED?" . . . . .	101
SILENT SONGS . . . . .	102
AN IDEAL . . . . .	103
"SHE LEFT THE WORLD IN EARLY YOUTH" . . . . .	104
"THERE 'S A NEW GRAVE IN THE OLD CHURCHYARD" . . . . .	105
SONG, — "WE LOVE IN YOUTH" . . . . .	106
A PRELUDE . . . . .	107
IN THE HAREM . . . . .	108
THE ARAB STEED . . . . .	109
SONG, — "YOU KNOW THE OLD HIDALGO" . . . . .	110
SONG, — "THE WALLS OF CADIZ FRONT THE SHORE" . . . . .	111
THE TWO BRIDES . . . . .	112
"I SYMPATHIZE WITH ALL THY GRIEF" . . . . .	113
A SERENADE . . . . .	114
"THE YELLOW MOON LOOKS SLANTLY DOWN" . . . . .	115
"ALONG THE GRASSY SLOPE I SIT" . . . . .	116
SUMMER . . . . .	117
TO A NIGHTINGALE . . . . .	119
TO B. T. . . . .	121
"THE SUN PURSUES HIS STARRY ROUND IN SPACE" . . . . .	122
TO W. J. R. . . . .	123
THE GAME OF CHESS . . . . .	124
FROM A PLAY . . . . .	126



POEMS.



## THE CASTLE IN THE AIR.

### I.

We have two lives about us,  
Two worlds in which we dwell ;  
Within us, and without us,  
Alternate Heaven and Hell :  
Without, the sombre Real,

\* Within our heart of hearts, the beautiful Ideal !

I stand between the portals of the two,  
Fettered and cramped with many a heavy chain,  
Whose links I strive to rend, but all in vain,  
So strong the False that holds me from the True ;  
In dreams alone my spirit wanders o'er  
The starry threshold of the world of bliss,  
And lives the life that Fate denies in this,

( Which may have once been mine, but will be — never-  
more !