

**A READING OF LIFE:  
WITH OTHER POEMS**

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A Reading of Life: With Other Poems by George Meredith

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**GEORGE MEREDITH**

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WITH OTHER POEMS**



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WITH OTHER POEMS

BY GEORGE MEREDITH

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## A READING OF LIFE

### THE VITAL CHOICE

#### I

OR shall we run with Artemis  
Or yield the breast to Aphrodite?  
Both are mighty ;  
Both give bliss ;  
Each can torture if divided ;  
Each claims worship undivided,  
In her wake would have us wallow.

A READING OF LIFE

II

Youth must offer on bent knees  
Homage unto one or other ;  
Earth, the mother,  
This decrees ;  
And unto the pallid Scyther  
Either points us shun we either  
Shun or too devoutly follow.