

# **A VOICE FROM THE SILENCE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649032372

A Voice from the Silence by Charles Philip Nettleton & Ina Coolbrith & Isabel Darling

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Cover @ 2017

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**CHARLES PHILIP NETTLETON & INA COOLBRITH & ISABEL DARLING**

# **A VOICE FROM THE SILENCE**





*Hamilton Lee*  
*1904*

# A VOICE FROM THE SILENCE

CHARLES PHILIP NETTLETON

EDITED BY

INA COOLBRITH

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH AND POEM

BY

ISABEL DARLING

APPRECIATION

BY

REV. HAMILTON LEE



SAN FRANCISCO

A. W. Robertson

1904

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THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
343027  
ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS  
1896

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*1904*

## A VOICE FROM THE SILENCE

### OF OUR FRIEND.

Gone! And then Memory came  
And swiftly, with sad surprise,  
Gathered his voice and his name,  
His step and the flash of his eyes,—  
Saying, "All these were of him,  
But not for unanswering earth;  
Now, while your eyes are yet dim,  
Speak each unto each of his worth.

"Question his words yet again,—  
For they are not friends who forget—  
Question the strokes of his pen;  
Not one will you find to regret.  
Young, was he not, to be done  
With all that it means but to live;  
Young, all the good to have won  
This hurrying world had to give?

"Life is 'a feast or a fast?'  
His life was a longing, a light  
Shaded for fear of the blast,  
Yet shining afar in the night.  
Life is 'a song or a moan?'  
His life was an anthem, a trill;  
He was a wind-harp, alone,  
Breathed on by the Infinite Will.



*A VOICE FROM THE SILENCE*

"So, in the days that are long,  
Though tempted to listen and weep,  
Join in the reverent song,  
Not dead, nor yet hushed into sleep."

\* \* \* \* \*

Tenderly Memory turned  
And locked in our innermost heart  
That which each one of us earned  
While thus he was walking apart.

—ISABEL DARLING.

## A VOICE FROM THE SILENCE

### AN APPRECIATION.

The author of the work which this book contains was remarkable both for the character of his life and for the quality of his thought. His mind lies open, to a certain extent, in the pages that follow, but the nobility of his soul and the remarkable fidelity with which he met the varied duties which called forth his activity, can be known only to those who were familiar with the man himself in his home and in his intercourse with his associates. An intimate and close acquaintance of more than fifteen years enables the writer of these lines to appreciate the nature of the difficulties, the struggles, the discouragements, the aspirations, the attainments, the successes, which made up the human existence of his friend, Charles P. Nettleton, and of none, as it seems to him, could words of truer praise be spoken than of the son, the brother, the man who offered up all that he had and was upon the altar of duty, of filial affection and friendship.

The chief desire of Mr. Nettleton, for many years, had been to devote himself to the service of God in the sacred ministry. At last the way seemed opened, but the call was to a higher service, and to those who knew him best, as they think of his departure, there comes a remembrance of the words of the Master, which seem so appropriate for such a one: "Well done good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will sit thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

—Rev. Hamilton Lee.

Berkeley, Cal., October, 1903.

*A VOICE FROM THE SILENCE*

Hold open the door of thy heart;  
Reach out as I reach unto you;  
Hand in hand let us ponder apart,  
In the glory of quest for the true.