

POEMS

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Poems by R. W. Emerson

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R. W. EMERSON

POEMS

P O E M S.

BY

R. W. EMERSON.

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P O E M S .

THE SPHINX.

THE Sphinx is drowsy,
Her wings are furled;
Her ear is heavy,
She broods on the world.
"Who'll tell me my secret,
The ages have kept? —
I awaited the seer,
While they slumbered and slept; —
"The fate of the man-child;
The meaning of man;
Known fruit of the unknown;
Dædalian plan;

Out of sleeping a waking,
Out of waking a sleep;
Life death overtaking;
Deep underneath deep!

“Erect as a sunbeam,
Upspringeth the palm;
The elephant browses,
Undaunted and calm;
In beautiful motion
The thrush plies his wings:
Kind leaves of his covert,
Your silence he sings.

“The waves, unashamed,
In difference sweet,
Play glad with the breezes,
Old playfellows meet;
The journeying atoms,
Primordial wholes,
Firmly draw, firmly drive,
By their animate poles.