

**THE VISIONARY,
AND OTHER POEMS**

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The Visionary, and Other Poems by Christine Siebeneck Swayne

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CHRISTINE SIEBENECK SWAYNE

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AND OTHER POEMS**

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By Christine Siebeneck Swayne



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THE VISIONARY

And Other Poems

THE VISIONARY

A Portrait

Within his blue, brave eyes the fire of hope
Lights younger men the way to deathless death;
Upon his aged lips immortal song,
Exults to thrill and fill the ear of youth,
While from that slackening heart his fruitful faith
Sows all the world he loved, as one huge field,
With seed of mighty harvesting to come.

When he was young the freedom of his blood
Drove him from out the populous, pent herds,
Who multiply within those ghettos of the soul,
Those cramping bounds, Expedience and Use;—
Then with inspired, uncalculating joy
He rioted among traditions of the great,
Made models of the liberated dead:
He saw his life a road to other worlds,
And scorned to shape a mercenary course;
Coined gain or loss he never paused to weigh,
But showed a glad uncompromising front,
Betraying utter blindness to a bribe,
And his dire inability to lie:
He sought the fiercest battles of his life
With no pre-cognant, careful thought of self:
He never left a harnessed foe unhacked,
A wrong unharried in its ancient hold,
Or long-armed sin to sow in dragons-teeth
The furrows whence a mailed host should spring.
“Awake! arise! advance!” his constant cry:
He poured himself like water for a cause,
He spent himself like treasure for a hope—
Still, when he feared his last reserve was gone,
There rose a new resourcefulness within