## ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON; AN ELEGY, AND OTHER POEMS MAINLY PERSONAL. [LONDON-1895]

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Robert Louis Stevenson; An Elegy, and Other Poems Mainly Personal. [London-1895] by Richard Le Gallienne

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### RICHARD LE GALLIENNE

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## ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON AND OTHER POEMS

TO

# MY DEAR MOTHER AND FATHER THESE PORMS ARE LOVINGLY DEDICATED

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### ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

#### AN ELEGY

HIGH on his Patmos of the Southern Seas

Our northern dreamer sleeps,

Strange stars above him, and above his grave

Strange leaves and wings their tropic splendours

wave,

While, far beneath, mile after shimmering mile,
The great Pacific, with its faery deeps,
Smiles all day long its silken secret smile.

Son of a race nomadic, finding still

Its home in regions furthest from its home,

Ranging untired the borders of the world,

And resting but to roam;

### ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

Loved of his land, and making all his boast

The birthright of the blood from which he came,

Heir to those lights that guard the Scottish

coast,

And caring only for a filial fame;

Proud, if a poet, he was Scotsman most,

And bore a Scottish name.

Death, that long sought our poet, finds at last,
Death, that pursued him over land and sea:
Not his the flight of fear, the heart aghast
With stony dread of immortality,
He fled 'not cowardly';
Fled, as some captain, in whose shaping hand
Lie the momentous fortunes of his land,
Sheds not vainglorious blood upon the field,
But dares to fly—yea! even dares to yield.

Death! why at last he finds his treasure isle,
And he the pirate of its hidden hoard;
Life! 'twas the ship he sailed to seek it in,
And Death is but the pilot come aboard.
Methinks I see him smile a boy's glad smile
On maddened winds and waters, reefs unknown,

As thunders in the sail the dread typhoon,

And in the surf the shuddering timbers groan;

Horror ahead, and Death beside the wheel:

Then—spreading stillness of the broad lagoon,

And lap of waters round the resting keel.

Strange Isle of Voices! must we ask in vain,
In vain beseech and win no answering word,
Save mocking echoes of our lonely pain
From lonely hill and bird?