

# **LETTER AND SPIRIT**

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Letter and Spirit by A. M. Richards

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**A. M. RICHARDS**

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# *Letter and Spirit*

anna + jack  
BY  
A. M. RICHARDS

BOSTON

J. G. CUPPLES COMPANY, PUBLISHERS

1908.

2684



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### PREFACE.

*THESE verses are part of a design, unfulfilled by the Author and long since abandoned, of giving expression to each of the manifold aspects of an unchanging and unchangeable truth.*

*The plan was not suggested by any bias of personal conviction, and, although there is frequently a meaning in the order in which two or three of the sonnets follow each other, there is no idea of argument or controversy in their arrangement.*

A. M. R.

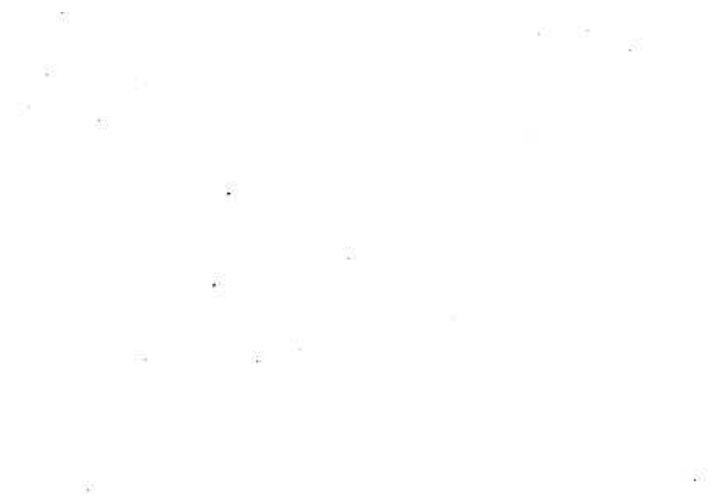
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*LET not Theology nor Sentiment, —  
That half-interpreter of life, — be bold  
To speak of things that Faith alone may bold  
Of right divine, and yet be ill content  
That Art should dare invade their element, —  
Art, the grave master, with clear vision cold  
And love of light in all the manifold  
Converging rays that in the truth are blent.*

*Religion hath no science and no form  
But in that silent world of faith, and we  
Who would create her image must employ  
The unsparing hand of Art : all night and storm  
And fear that shape her outline we must see  
No less than her indwelling light and joy.*



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II.

*MIGHT I but with Jehovah, face to face,  
Plead as with man, that he might surely hear!  
And the swift message came: The Lord is near;  
For thine own country is His dwelling-place.  
I said: The end of all things draweth apace,  
And when these mocking shadows disappear,  
Shall I, from out the silence and the fear,  
Behold the meaning of Thy mortal race?*

*As dawn, in night beginning far away  
Becomes at last a luminous atmosphere,  
So from the regions of the perfect day  
The answer comes forever sad and clear:  
Nay! thou, a part of some stupendous whole,  
Shall never, never comprehend thy soul.*

