GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS: A EULOGY; DELIVERED BEFORE THE PEOPLE OF STATEN ISLAND, AT THE CASTLETON, ST. GEORGE, FEBRUARY 24, 1893

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WILLIAM WINTER

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GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS

As he looked when I first saw him.—W. W.

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS

A Eulogy

DELIVERED BEFORE THE PEOPLE OF STATEN ISLAND, AT THE CASTLETON, ST. GEORGE, FEBRUARY 24, 1893

BY

WILLIAM WINTER

"Now is the stately column broke,
The beacon-light is quench'd in smoke,
The trumpet's silver sound is still,
The warder silent on the hill."
SIR WALTER SCOTT

New York
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1893

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

This brilliant throng, this dazzling array of eager faces, this gentle, fervent welcome—they are not for me. They are for another. They proclaim your affectionate devotion to a gracious figure that has passed from this world; a voice that is silent; a face that here will shine on you no more. And, surely, if the souls of the departed are aware of anything upon this earth, if those ties of affection still subsist, without

which life—whether here or elsewhere—would be worthless, his sacred spirit descends upon this place, to-night, and sees into your hearts and rejoices in your love, and knows this hour and hallows it.

In the days of my youth I was often privileged to sit by the fireside of the poet Longfellow. He was exceedingly kind to me, and with his encouragement and under his guidance I entered upon that service of literature to which, humbly but earnestly, my life has been devoted. Longfellow possessed a great and peculiar fascination for youth. He was a man who nat-