

Deterioration

A prophet of the truth he was, like those
In Attic shades, or in old Hebrew days—
Regardless of unlettered people's praise,
Undaunted if unfriendly did oppose.
His task—to fellow mortals to disclose
The one among life's many luring ways,
And the whole standard of the time to raise—
Content to feel: "Above is One Who knows."
His school is out, his robes are tossed aside,
Nor Greece, nor Judah saved him from the lure
Which Mammon showed, and he is occupied
With gold, not souls—nor knows that he is poor,
Nor that Posterity shall write him one
Who quenched a light far brighter than the sun.

ALEXANDER LOUIS FRASER.