

promising to treat Grimbald with distinguished honour during the rest of his life. It is touching to see what a price the king set upon a true and able man.

"I was called," says Asser, "from the western extremity of Wales. I was led to Sussex, and first saw the king in the royal mansion of Dene. He received me with kindness, and amongst other conversation, earnestly besought me to devote myself to his service and to become his companion. He begged me to give up my preferments beyond the Severn, promising to be-

stow on me still richer preferments in their place." Asser said that he was unwilling to quit, merely for worldly honour, the country in which he had been brought up and ordained. "At least," replied the king, "give me half your time. Pass six months of the year with me and the rest in Wales." Asser still hesitated. The king repeated his solicitations, and Asser promised to return within half a year; the time was fixed for his visit, and on the fourth day of their interview he left the king and went home.

### TO BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

(After reading his Autobiography).

BY LEWIS F. STARRETT.



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

When God a prophet on the earth doth need,  
They on the watch-tower have no cause to  
fear

But in God's time His prophet will appear,  
And in His name God's righteous cause will  
plead

With such effect that nothing can succeed  
Against his message so to shut its ear

But that when he shall speak the world shall  
hear,

Or so to sway its thought but it shall heed.  
But ere he can be on his mission sent  
He must be for it born, and to it grow ;  
Gifts, habits, training and environment,  
All to the making of the prophet go.  
God giveth what is needed. He doth make  
In sending forth His prophets no mistake.

The greatest Prophet earth has ever known  
Was in a stable born—the Lord's own Son ;  
And of the prophets since the world begun  
Most were of humble lineage ; but thine own  
Was even less than humble. Thou hast  
grown

From bondage into greatness, and hast won  
A world's approval for thy work well done,  
Reaping with joy where thou with tears  
hast sown.

Statesman and scholar art thou. Thou dost  
speak

Words that are just and sane and wise and  
true,

Much art thou like earth's first great  
prophet, who

Like thee did represent a people weak  
Who had been bondsmen. Like him thou  
art meek,

And, like him also, thou art mighty too.