

The burden...

Then through a stillness deeper than the grave's,  
The coral spires rose slowly, one by one,  
Until the white shafts pierced the upper waves  
And shone like silver in the tropic sun.

I ploughed with glaciers down the mountain glen,  
And graved the iron shore with stream and tide ;  
I gave the bird her nest, the lion his den,  
The snake long jungle-grass wherein to hide.

In lonely gorge and over hill and plain,  
I sowed the giant forests of the world ;  
The great earth like a human heart in pain  
Has quivered with the meteors I have hurled.

I plunged whole continents beneath the deep  
And left them sepulchered a million years ;  
I called, and lo, the drowned lands rose from sleep,  
Sundering the waters of the hemispheres.

I am the Lord and Arbiter of man ;—  
I hold and crush between my finger tips  
Wild hordes that drive the desert caravan,  
Great nations that go down to sea in ships.