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## [FOR THE CRITIC.] THE STAR GOD.

The Star God sat on his jewell'd throne,  
And below him a thunder cloud,  
And about him the lightnings ever flashed,  
While before him the seraphs bowed;  
And above him danced the northern lights,  
The souls of the blessed dead  
That flicker and whirl for evermore,  
In a zone o'er the Star God's head.

And the Star God gazed with a piercing eye  
At the orbs which round him turned,  
At the bursting star which scattering fell,  
And the suns which fiercely burned.  
There Vega moved his mighty bulk  
Billions of worlds in one;  
While far below the tiny earth  
Circled its fourth-rate sun.

Glittering cold shone the Star God's throne,  
Lit with the souls of the dead,  
That quivered in endless changing rays,  
Of pale wan gold and red.  
And silence was o'er the seas of space  
Like the hush of a thousand graves,  
And a dark frown swept o'er the Star God's face,  
As he gazed at the puny human race  
Thro' the driving clouds that below him chased,  
And the surge of the ether waves.

As the Star God looked he saw that Truth  
Lay dead on a shrouded bier,  
And no one mourned or felt his loss,  
Or shed a single tear.  
And o'er him lay a loathsome pall,  
A leprous pall of lies,  
Which Bigotry was holding down,  
To hide him from men's eyes.

And the silver lamp that Truth had borne,  
Still glimmered by his side,  
But Anarchy's red hand was raised,  
While Wisdom reeled back all amazed,  
For Truth, alas, had died!  
And Superstition held aloft  
A black draped sceptre drear,  
That sceptre which should rule the world—  
The sceptre men call Fear!

Long ages passed, and the silver lamp,  
Like a star, threw a tiny light.  
On the clustering spectres round the bier  
That roamed through the thickening night;  
And Ignorance sat in Wisdom's seat,  
With Bigotry crouching at his feet,  
And taught that wrong was right.

But the Star God smiled, and the lamp of truth  
Blazed high with a steady light;  
And Ignorance and Bigotry  
Shrank back, appalled with fright.  
As the living truth from the silver lamp  
Sank through the pall of lies,  
A Voice came down from the stars above,  
All full of gentleness and love,  
And the Voice said, "Truth, arise!"

Then Truth rose up in a spotless robe,  
Like the lily from out the clay,  
And the Star God smiled, and his godlike smile,  
Like music, passed away.  
And he still shall sit on his jewell'd throne,  
Till God shall call the nations home,  
When the heavens vast, at the trumpets' blast,  
Like a scroll shall roll away.

A. H.

## A NOTE ON THE POEMS OF SIR JOHN SUCKLING.

Save for two or three lyrics which were so fortunate as to find favor in the eyes of the anthologists, this cunning master of Society Verse has long been little more than a name with lovers of poetry. His work was only to be found in scarce and costly editions, and the loss to readers was the greater owing to the general assiduity with which the lighter Muse has of late been courted, and the prevailing thirst for knowledge as to the origin of this species of verse. At last, however, the poet is brought within our reach by an one volume edition, (edited and published by Frederick A. Stokes, of New York,) which is in price modest, in editing discreet, and in make-up a delight to the most exacting of book-lovers. As a specimen of book-making the volume is marked by a rich and captivating simplicity which would almost make Tupper readable, and which heightens the charm of even such delightful rhyme as Suckling's.

In the development of modern English Society Verse, the influence of Suckling's genius has been more potent than is generally realized. He is essentially of the craft of the Idle Singers; and by virtue of his spontaneity, his virility, and his genuineness, he is one of the foremost of the band. There is also to be added to his count the fact that his work was initiative, done before the fashion became general, and hence giving its author the rank of a leader rather than a follower. In this peculiar field, too, all his best work lies; he does not, like Herrick, stray off into the realms of pure imagination, and hence, though a lesser poet, he is greater master within his own limits than was the poet of the Daffodils and Cornucopia. As his editor notes, he conforms most completely to what Mr. Locker lays down as the requirements of him who would write *vers de société*. "He must not only be more or less of a poet, but, he must also be a man of the world, in the most liberal sense of the expression, he must have mixed throughout his life with the most refined and cultivated members of his species, not merely as an idle bystander, but as a busy actor in the throng." These qualifications belonged prominently to Suckling, the courtier and the gallant, the