

To most sublime accordance. Long at strife
 His growing genius labored in the boy,
 A-toil to find some voice of woe or joy
 Such as might echo back each mighty note
 Shaking his being's deeps the most remote,
 Like winds a-tremble on a shoreless sea.
 Until befell, by chance or destiny—
 Permitted growth of natural event,
 Or fruit direct of God's sublime intent—
 A string-compelling nomad, dying in
 The boy's rude birthplace, left his violin,
 A legacy of gratitude, to him,
 For tendance kindly rendered. Seraphim,
 And Cherubim, and Powers, and Thrones above!
 Ye minstrel ones, upon the heart of Love
 Sweeping its chords to music ever new,
 Thrilling to it as it doth thrill to you—
 Ye can conceive what felt the boy, when first,
 With rapture kin to yours, from silence burst
 His liberated spirit, pouring out
 Along the echoing strings, as with a shout
 Of new-made Dominations to their King.
 O, how his heart broke out in thundering,
 As of a voiceful tempest rolling far
 Along the roaring mountains plumed for war,
 Their fell of forests threatening at the gale!
 And then anon the dying numbers fail,
 Swooning into a music, airy—fine
 As liquid murmurs dripping from the pine,
 When summer in their blood bids dream of love.
 He played by mandate from the Height above,
 And inspiration of a chosen seer:
 To him, the scale of harmony was clear
 By intuition of a mind that scanned
 Its octaves, ruling through a master-hand.

So, as he grew, the fastnesses of pine,
 And the strong places of the mountain-line,
 Where solitude was fortified, knew in him
 A boon companion. From their shadows dim,
 Vast adumbrations as of love, and awe,
 And wrath, and stormy raptures such as draw
 A life from stormy passions of a soul
 Built to power in all save self-control,
 Were shaken o'er his spirit, nursing it
 As at the breast of Tempest, foster fit
 To build a master, but a fearful one!

Yet none the less made echo hours of sun
 A softer music through his heart at times;
 Wherein were voices of the silver chimes