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11 a it ! a, iss it ! evous words iven. lessed her loving voice Poetry and Poems of Alfred Stafford.

Reason. Where flys strike forth a quick uncertain light, Here lost unseen amid the depths of thought, A startling view this darkness to amnse. Ashamed to write, ashamed to idle be Ashamed to fully trust thee gracious God ; With prompted case the bull frog breaks the True, well hast thou in truth remembered silent pool, me. As if to yawn away the space twix't sleeping hours : Great thought kindled in the breasts of ages Perhaps desire to fill the vacant space past, Rose from some tongue touched with thy The whippor will had made to close the day or ope the night ; spark of fire Strange some hidden songster should now Overwhelmed with joy from griefs to rise, break forth, Such is power and such I do require. Unseen, yet he by his song is known Charming taste, for darkness with-holds the No voice can'st heal which mortal will hath raised ; No storms shall cease by human strength reat. What a picture is here conveyed before by or word : mind ! No second power can'et rise to quenched No eye beholds the vividness of nature's the first. art ; She comes instilled within the spirit clear Whilst envy against it ever shall be stirred, through faith, I, created first within earth's bosom, All other gates in error bids her truths de-To mortal hand was workmanship unknown; Yet where is skill to fashion or comply, part. The waters move through aid to move along; Or equal his invisible here shown. The grasses flourish well when ere she Yes, everywhere if reason would abide, Would light be shown within this mortal weeps ; Thus I learn thy good, sympathizing tear. heart ; And void of doubt his truths would smooth-Trees in uninson are moved by the unseen, Throughout doth reason guide by some imly glide, pulse unknown ; To bid our gates of error all depart. Great truths, which man would vain disclose, still rest with God ; No vain thing hath he created as man would My Ellegy in Nature's Darkness. be. When he would'st live without his maker's Composed in measure, combining truth, law. soundness and depth. THE AUTHOR. Oh ! God why revealeth thou such wisdom, Within this humble brow, unworthy mind. The toil of day hath eped before the face of Here all alone in solitude, I rest with thee ; In silence sank the hours to rest, but not Thou knoweth my desire, my thirst is alone ; quenched ; Like them our younger hearts are lost in While many sleep within their earthly tombs, ye feedeth me; calm repose, Unknown and unconscions time is speeding Often when I would'st speak to rise or by. Some insect life which charmed the thoughtshowy be, Ye ruleth, yes deny my tongue all power ; But when returned alone with the to dwell, ful gaze : The grateful throats which touched in note I learn the truth and wisdom of thy ways. and praise, Lay cradled in the bosom of the night. Oft this same sad sacred spot I knew, know as now ; A veil hath hid the starry firmament above I feared the darkness, then was I unborn of No breath or breeze disturb these peaceful God : scenes at rest, Such intervals between the sometimes Now guided by thy peace and light, I spend with Thee slumbering wake. The night, the richest moments man hath Our landscape lamps, as if to pilot and to ever known ! This cage is but a cradle, yet to be To rock the infant child that can'st not Stretch forth a star unto this lonely spot,

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