

## A LIFE

### I.

**L**ET us rise up and live ! Behold, each thing  
Is ready for the moulding of our hand.  
~~Long have they all awaited our command ;~~  
None other will they ever own for king.  
Until we come no bird dare try to sing,  
Nor any sea its power may understand ;  
No buds are on the trees ; in every land  
Year asketh year some tidings of some Spring.  
Yea, it is time, — high time we were awake !  
Simple indeed shall life be unto us.  
What part is ours ? — To take what all things give ;  
To feel the whole world growing for our sake ;  
To have sure knowledge of the marvellous ;  
To laugh and love. — *Let us rise up and live !*

### II.

**L**ET us rule well and long. We will build here  
Our city in the pathway of the sun.  
On this side shall this mighty river run ;  
Along its course well-laden ships shall steer.  
Beyond, great mountains shall their crests uprear,  
That from their sides our jewels may be won.  
Let all you toil ! Behold, it is well done ;  
Under our sway all far things fall and near !  
All time is ours ! *Let us rule long and well !*  
So we have reigned for many a long, long day.  
No change can come. . . . What hath that slave to tell,  
Who dares to stop us on our royal way ?  
“ O King, last night within thy garden fell,  
From thine own tree, a rose whose leaves were gray.”