

SILENCE, A SONNET

There are some qualities—some incorporate things,
That have a double life, life aptly made
The type of that twin entity which springs
From matter and light, evinced in solid and shade.
There is a two-fold *Silence*—sea and shore—
Body and Soul. One dwells in desert places,
Newly with grass o'ergrown; some solemn graces,
Some human memories and tearful lore,
Render him terrorless: his name's "No more."
He is the corporate Silence: dread him not!
No power hath he of evil in himself;
But should some urgent fate (untimely lot!)
Bring thee to meet his shadow (nameless elf,
Who haunteth the dim regions where hath trod
No foot of man,) commend thyself to God!

[December, 1839]