

**KATHRINA:
A POEM**

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Kathrina: A Poem by J. G. Holland

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J. G. HOLLAND

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A POEM**

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A POEM

BY

J. G. HOLLAND

NEW YORK

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1886

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KATHRINA.

A TRIBUTE.

MORE human, more divine than we—
In truth, half human, half divine—
Is woman, when good stars agree
To temper with their beams benign
The hour of her nativity.

The fairest flower the green earth bears,
Bright with the dew and light of heaven,
Is, of the double life she wears,
The type, in grace and glory given
By soil and sun in equal shares.

True sister of the Son of Man ;
True sister of the Son of God ;
What marvel that she leads the van
Of those who in the path he trod,
Still bear the cross and wear the ban?

Kathrina.

If God be in the sky and sea,
And live in light and ride the storm,
Then God is God, although He be
Enshrined within a woman's form;
And claims glad reverence from me.

So, as I worship Him in Christ,
And in the Forms of Earth and Air,
I worship Him imparadised,
And throned within her bosom fair
Whom vanity hath not enticed.

O! woman—mother! Woman—wife!—
The sweetest names that language knows!
Thy breast, with holy motives rife,
With holiest affection glows,
Thou queen, thou angel of my life!

Noble and fine in his degree
Is the best man my heart receives;
And this my heart's supremest plea
For him: he feels, acts, lives, believes,
And seems, and is, the likest thee.

Kathrina.

3

O men! O brothers! Well I know
That with her nature in our souls
Is born the elemental woe—
The brutal impulse that controls,
And drives, or drags, the godlike low.

Ambition, appetite and pride—
These throng and thrall the hearts of men:
These plat the thorns, and pierce the side
Of Him, who, in our souls again,
Is spit upon, and crucified.

The greed for gain, the thirst for power,
The lust that blackens while it burns:
Ah! these the whitest souls devour!
And one, or all of these by turns,
Rob man of his divinest dower!

Yet man, who shivers like a straw
Before Temptation's lightest breeze,
Assumes the master—gives the law
To her who, on her bended knees,
Resists the black-winged thunder-flaw!