

A WANDERER'S SONG OF THE SEA

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A Wanderer's Song of the Sea by Charles Keeler

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CHARLES KEELER

**A WANDERER'S
SONG OF THE SEA**

A Wanderer's Songs of the Sea

BY

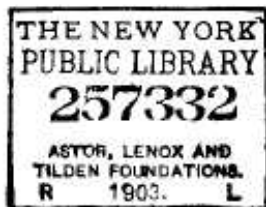
CHARLES KEELER



San Francisco:
A. W. Robertson

1902

A. F.



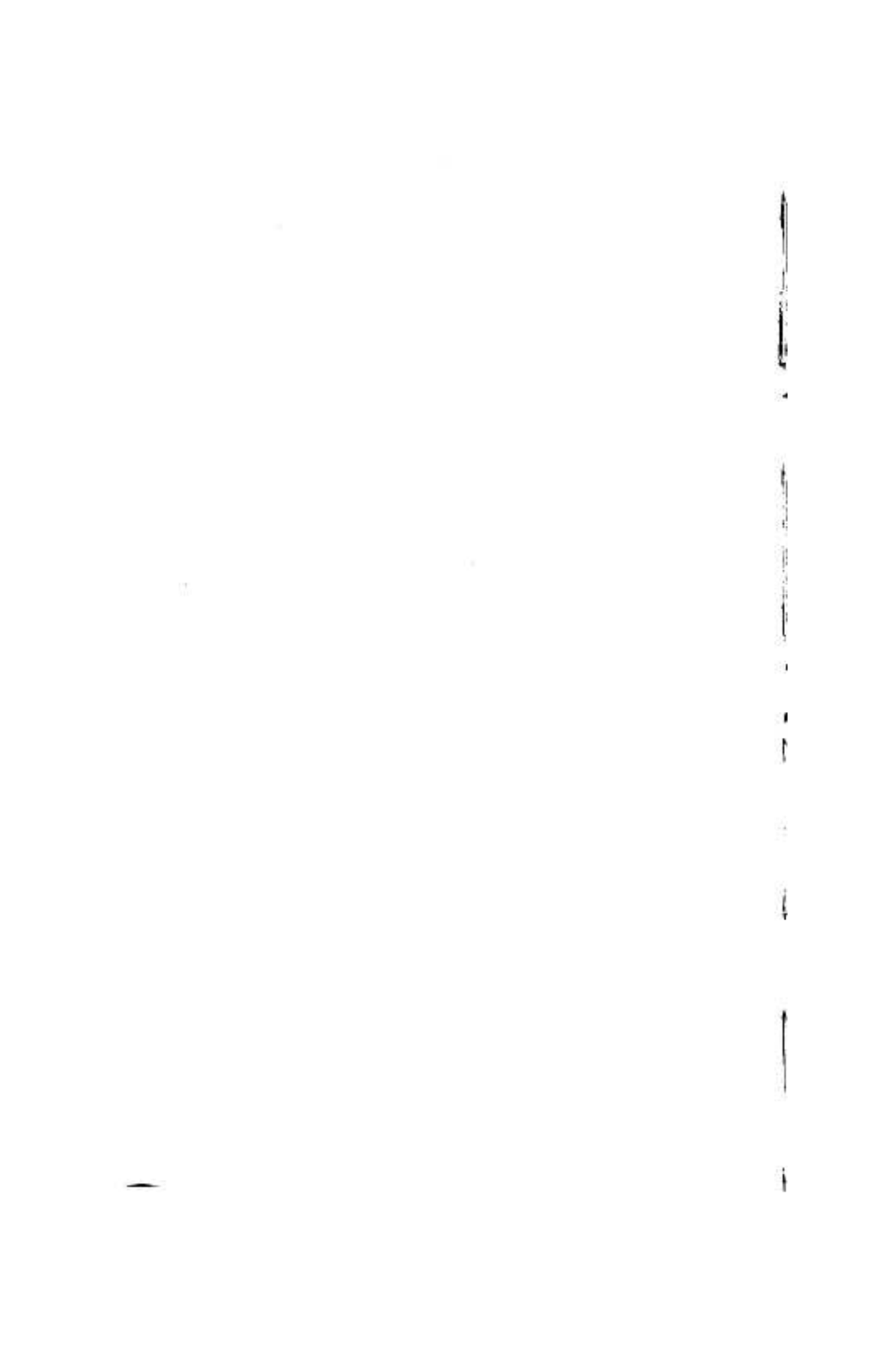
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By CHARLES KEELER

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SAN FRANCISCO

To William Keith

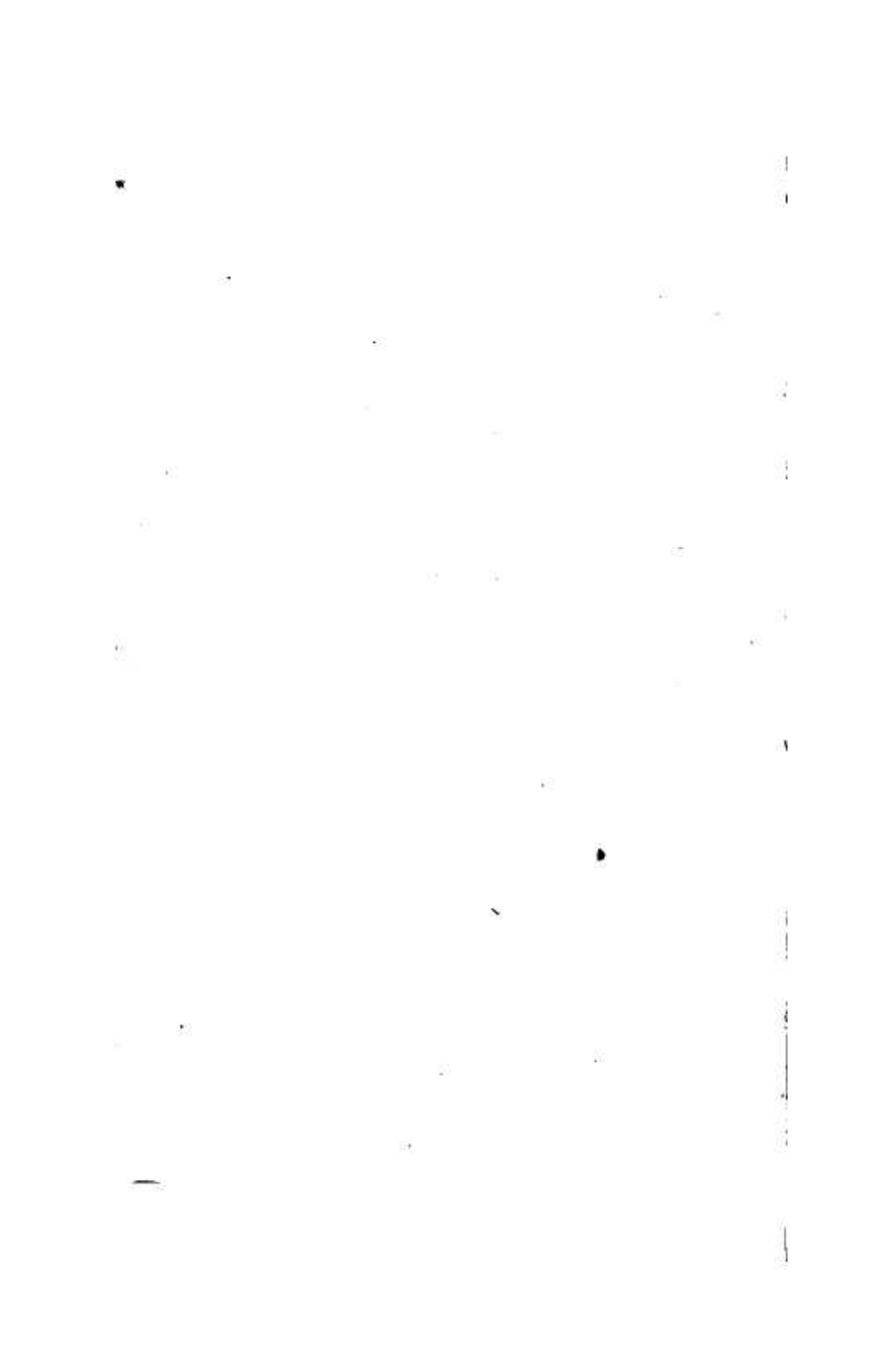
Painter and poet and friend,
Lover of live-oaks and hills,
Little my songs can lend
To a life that with beauty thrills.
Through you have I seen the grove
In the golden twilight of dreams,
The peak where the storm-cloud strove
With the sun's triumphant beams;
And I would it were given to me
To return e'en a tithe of the boon
In my songs of the masterful sea,
In my strains of its mystical rune.
I would take you afar o'er the deep
To the haunts of the rude sea kings,
To realms where the storm-mists sweep,
To the zones where the petrel wings!
But I know in your musings alone
In the frigate of art you are free
To sail where a splendor has shown
That ne'er was on land or on sea!

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A Wanderer's Songs of the Sea

A WORD ON THE SONGS.

The charm of the sea is ever new. Its songs are ever in the making. It is a fresh surprise for each one who ventures upon its illimitable way.

In the bits of lyric contained in this slender volume I have sought to catch fleeting glimpses of ocean life and of sailor men in many parts of the Pacific, from the Russian voyager in Bering Sea to the Tahitian fisherman braving the perils of the deep in his open canoe, and his still more daring kinsmen who, some six hundred years ago, voyaged over thousands of miles of unknown water and discovered New Zealand.

Only on deep-water sailing vessels do the sailors still sing chanties. When a ship has been laboring through a storm under shortened canvas and the wind abates, the skipper, anxious to make a quick voyage, gives the command to set more sail. Men are ordered aloft to free the lashings and the heavy spar must then be hoisted to its place. The full watch take hold of the halyard, a rope on which the spar is suspended, and which