

**SONNETS TO SIDNEY
LANIER, AND OTHER
LYRICS BY CLIFFORD
ANDERSON LANIER**

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Sonnets to Sidney Lanier, and other lyrics by Clifford Anderson Lanier by Clifford Anderson
Lanier & Edward Howard Griggs

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CLIFFORD ANDERSON LANIER & EDWARD HOWARD GRIGGS

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LYRICS BY CLIFFORD
ANDERSON LANIER**

**Sonnets to Sidney Lanier
And Other Lyrics by
Clifford Anderson Lanier**

Edited, with an Introduction,
by Edward Howard Griggs



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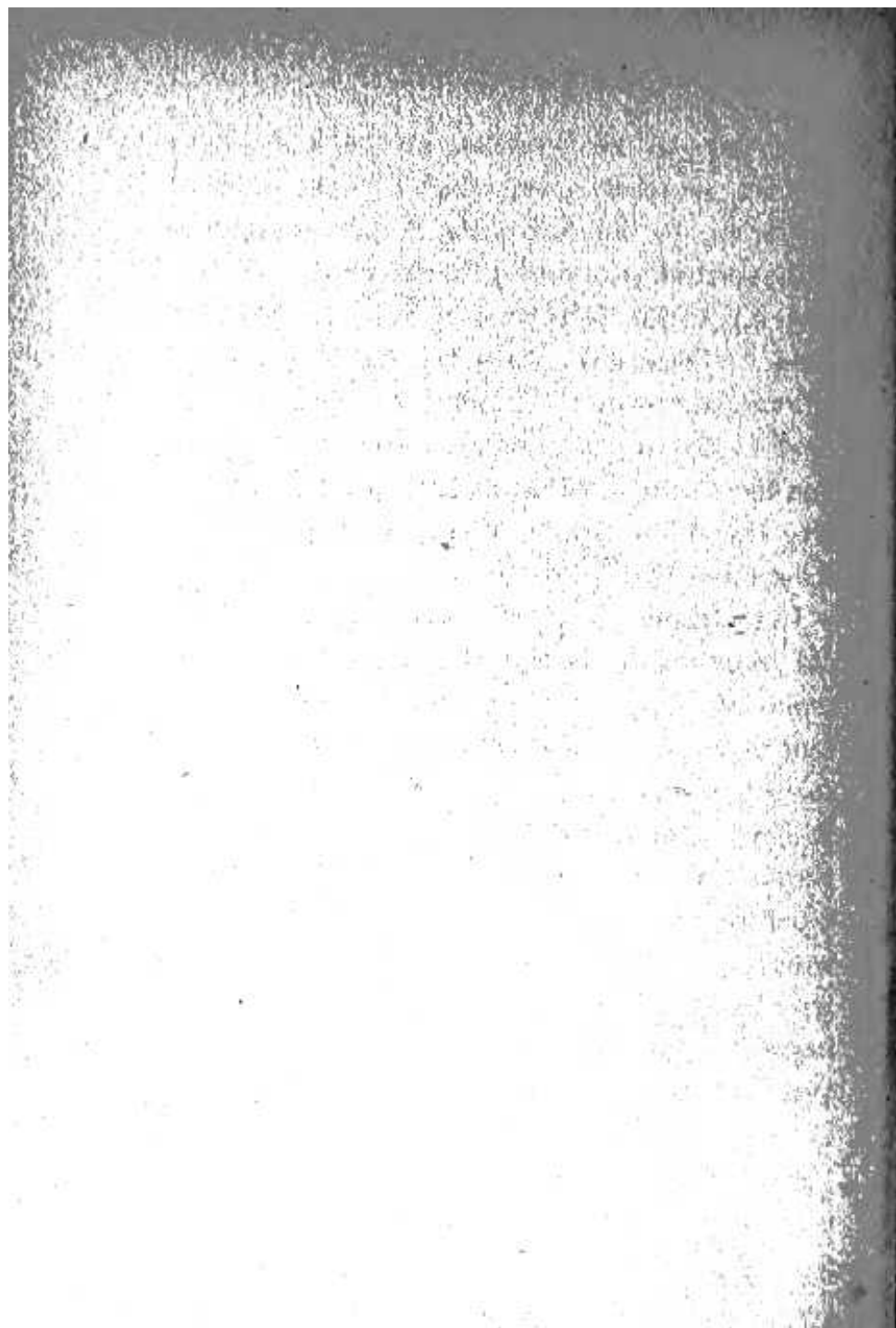
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Introduction



INTRODUCTION

"God gave us our relatives; we thank the Lord He let us choose our friends," the modern scoffer has it—indicating the deeper significance in the spiritual relationship freely chosen. When, however, to the deep bond of blood is added the bond of friendship: when the fine spiritual relationship crowns the family affection: then indeed is the union rare and wonderful. Such was the love of Clifford and Sidney Lanier—the love that found its finest literary expression in the sonnets that follow.

In the Lanier brothers was the best blood of the old Southland, developing to fine, chivalrous manhood, touched with that tenderness that crowns the man with the woman's refinement of feeling and appreciation. Intimately together in boyhood and early college days, they fought through the splendid losing fight of the war, much of the time in close association. Sidney suffered captivity, while Clifford was shipwrecked, but fortunately escaped that period of imprisonment, amid the horrors of Point Lookout prison, that broke Sidney's health and perhaps

caused his sadly early death. Devoted patriots, keeping faith with their dear lost cause, the brothers had in common that generosity of view and magnanimity of spirit that made them accept the larger American ideals and coöperate in building the New South that is part of the new nation.

Younger by two years and only less gifted than his marvelous brother, it seemed to Clifford, in the bitter time of reconstruction, that his duty was to put aside, as avocation, his longings for a literary career, and accept the less attractive sphere of business life. It was necessary for some one of the family to shoulder the material problem, and Clifford cheerfully accepted it, that Sidney might have the fuller freedom. A letter of their father to Clifford, under date of June 23rd, 1878, gives the situation of Clifford's life at the age of thirty-four:

“What you say relative to the distinction other men have won in the world brings to me an almost painful sense of your sacrifices. I do indeed daily think of you as a hero, who has had the courage to repress aspirations for distinction,