Dedication

Henry W. Longfellow

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DEDICATION

By Henry W. Longfellow

NOTHING that is shall perish utterly,
But perish only to revive again
In other forms, as clouds restore in rain
The exhalations of the land and sea.
Men build their houses from the masonry
Of ruined tombs; the passion and the pain
Of hearts, that long have ceased to beat, remain
To throb in hearts that are, or are to be.

So from old chronicles, where sleep in dust
Names that once filled the world with trumpet tones,
I build this verse; and flowers of song have thrust
Their roots among the loose disjointed stones,
Which to this end I fashion as I must.
Quickened are they that touch the Prophet’s bones.

EIGHTEEN-FIFTY—“ANNUS MIRABILIS”

John Dryden once wrote a poem entitled “Annus Mirabilis” dealing with the period from August, 1665, to September, 1666, during which the Plague, the naval war with the Dutch, and the Great Fire of London all occurred. From a book-lover’s point of view, the year 1850 is much more important than Dryden’s “year.” During this annus