



Acc. No. 1,965

Old 7th Century 70
0377

To J. D. H.
Killed at Sursey Co. H. October, 1866

+ + + + + 21

Dead Friend, forgive a wild lament
Insanely following thy flight.
I would not cumber thine ascent
Nor drag thee back into the night;

But the great sea winds sigh with me,
The fair-faced Stars seem wrinkled, old,
And I would that I might lie with
thee

There in the grave so cold, so cold!

Grave walls are thick, I cannot see thee,
And the round skies are far and steep.

Old LP
Century no
20
2374

To J. D. H.

Killed at Surrey C. H. October, 1866. ^{Pres.}

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21

Dead Friend, forgive a wild lament
Insanely following thy flight.

I would not cumber thine ascent

Nor drag thee back into the night;

But the great sea-winds sigh with me,
The fair-faced Stars seem wrinkled, old,
And I would that I might lie with
thee

There in the grave so cold, so cold!

Grave walls are thick, I cannot see thee,
And the round skies are far and steep.

A-wild to quaff some cup of Lethe,
Pain is proud and scorns to weep.

My heart breaks if it cling about thee,
And still breaks, if far from thine.

O dear, dear death, to live without thee,
O sad life — to keep thee mine.

* * * * *

Sidney Lanier.

1866.

148
RARE AND EARLY MS. POEM

Acc. No. 11945-

LANIER (SIDNEY). American Poet. A. MS.
S. Autograph Manuscript Poem titled: "To
J. D. H., Killed at Surrey, C. H. October, 1866."
2 pages, 8vo. 1866. Written in ink. Comprises 4
stanzas, 4 lines each. With cloth protection
cover, in hf. lev. brown mor. slip case. ~~11945~~

AN EXTREMELY EARLY AND DESIRABLE MANU-
SCRIPT POEM WRITTEN BEFORE HIS FIRST WORK
"TIGER-LILIES, A NOVEL" WAS PUBLISHED.
Lanier graduated Oglethorpe College with
honors, in 1860. He then served in the Con-
federate Army during the Civil War, and was
a prisoner for five months. This poem was
written directly after the war, apparently
while clerk in Montgomery, Alabama.

The scarcity of Lanier manuscript mater-
ial is well known. This is an unusually early
and fine specimen. We believe most of the MSS.
are in the possession of the poet's son, Mr. H. W.
Lanier. Written in iambic tetrameter, the poem
commences:

"Dead Friend, forgive a wild lament
Insanely following thy flight
I would not cumber thine ascent
Nor drag thee back into the night.

"But the great sea-winds sigh with me
The fair-faced Stars seem wrinkled, old,
And I would that I might lie with thee
There in the grave so cold, so cold!..."