



***THOMAS BAILEY
ALDRICH***

***THE SISTERS'
TRAGEDY,
WITH OTHER
POEMS,
LYRICAL AND
DRAMATIC***

Thomas Bailey Aldrich

The Sisters' Tragedy, with Other Poems, Lyrical and Dramatic

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Contact: DigiCat@okpublishing.info



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THE SISTERS' TRAGEDY

A. D. 1670

AGLAE, a widow

MURIEL, her unmarried sister.

IT happened once, in that brave land that lies
For half the twelvemonth wrapt in sombre skies,
Two sisters loved one man. He being dead,
Grief loosed the lips of her he had not wed,
And all the passion that through heavy years
Had masked in smiles unmasked itself in tears.
No purer love may mortals know than this,
The hidden love that guards another's bliss.
High in a turret's westward-facing room,
Whose painted window held the sunset's bloom,
The two together grieving, each to each
Unveiled her soul with sobs and broken speech.

Both still were young, in life's rich summer yet;
And one was dark, with tints of violet
In hair and eyes, and one was blond as she
Who rose—a second daybreak—from the sea,