9712

Written for Hon. Jas. R. Bulla and Mrs Sophia Bulla

on their Golden Wedding Day, May 25th, 1903.

By Albion W. Tourgee.

I.

A double health for thee and thine,
From friends across the sea.

First to the Past:--Youth's joys still shine
In Memory bright and free,--
When Life was young and Hope was high,
And kisses drowned each rising sigh;
Ambition showed the path before,
And each day's toil brought zest for more.
The dear, dead Past, whose hopes and fears,
With light and shadow filled the years;
Where friends and foes now silent lie,--
The hosts that crowd Eternity.
Drink to the Past, where Memory's light,
Shines like a star of summer night,
Half-hiding what is best forgot,
But lighting each love-hallowed spot;
Drink to the Past whose work is done,
In rich, red wine--"Oblivion!"
In rare Margaux from o'er the sea,
Fair symbol of sweet Memory.

II.

And then, to all the peaceful days
'Twixt Golden Wedding and golden haze
Of that still hour when called to rest
From labor--cold hands crossed on breast.
Through all the quiet after-glow,
May Love burn bright as Life sinks low,
And hearts still cling when hands intwine,
And earth-light meets the day divine.
Drink Ryquem unto days untold,
Ambrosial draughts of liquid gold,--
The sunshine gathered by the vine,
And stored in beans of amber wine,
Sweet it is as thoughts of Love,
And soft as Memory's dream.
A welcome token may it prove,
Of friendship and esteem,
From far across the sea,--
From sunny vine-clad lea,
Across the summer sea.

Bordeaux, France.