

***ELIZABETH
STUART PHELPS***

A white feather is shown floating on a dark, rippling body of water. The feather is positioned in the lower center of the frame, with its reflection visible on the water's surface. The background is a dark, textured expanse of water, creating a somber and contemplative mood.

***SONGS OF THE SILENT
WORLD, AND OTHER
POEMS***

Elizabeth Stuart Phelps

Songs of the Silent World, and Other Poems

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SONGS OF THE SILENT WORLD.

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There *is* no vacant chair. The loving meet—
A group unbroken—smitten, who knows how?
One sitteth silent only, in his usual seat;
We gave him once that freedom. Why not now?

Perhaps he is too weary, and needs rest;
He needed it too often, nor could we
Bestow. God gave it, knowing how to do so best.
Which of us would disturb him? Let him be.

There is no vacant chair. If he will take
The mood to listen mutely, be it done.
By his least mood we crossed, for which the heart