

OF SOIL AND MEN

By Robert Fitt

FROM SAW-TOOTHED PEAKS OF CLOUD-BOUND
MOUNTAINS FAIR
TO BOUNDLESS SWEEPS OF PRAIRIES RICH WITH GRASS,
THE SOILS THAT NOURISH LIFE MUST EVER BEAR
THE BURDEN OF SUSTAINING LIFE.

YON FERTILE SOIL DOTH SPAWN ABUNDANTLY,
ITS OFFSPRING ALL AGLOW WITH COMELY FORM,
AS ROOTS ENLARGED WITHOUT ADVERSITY
GIVE BOUNTEOUS LIFE.

BUT IN THE SOIL BESTREWN BY ROCKS, AND CLAY—
SETTLED, DENSE AND ROCKY, STIFLING GROWTH—
PLANTS AND MEN MUST STRUGGLE VALIANTLY
TO SCARCELY MAINTAIN LIFE.

AND YET THE TORTURED STRUGGLE, AT ITS END,
SCULPTS SPLENDOR FAR BEYOND A SLEEK FACADE.
IN WAYS FEW FEEBLE MORTALS COMPREHEND,
IT MOLDS ETERNAL LIFE.