The voice in the silence

Jones Thomas Samuel
Title: The voice in the silence

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BOOKS BY MR. JONES

The Voice in the Silence
The Rose-Jar
Interludes
From Quiet Valleys
The Path o' Dreams
(with Clinton Scollard)
From the Heart of the Hills
THE VOICE IN THE SILENCE BY THOMAS S. JONES, JR.

PORTLAND MAINE
THE MOSHER PRESS
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The one whole song of this true poet touches the imagination in a way which may be best, yet far from perfectly, described by likening its effect to that of a single episode in a masterwork of a closely allied art—to a certain scene in *Tannhäuser*. The curtain rises on the stage, disclosing the edge of a beautiful forest. In full view is a solitary high rock around the base of which winds an ancient road—the road of human feet. On the rock sits a youthful shepherd and in the shepherd's hands is the pipe of his sylvan solacing art. Amid the forest's beauty, stillness, loneliness, first he sings—self-attentive to his wistful joy. Then he places the pipe to his unaccompanied lips and blows his song out upon the bright atmosphere—still retaining for himself the gayety of a consecrated surrender to its plaintive note. Soon he is disturbed and silenced by another sound—the slow heavily burdened chorus of a band of coming pilgrims. Their variously commingled voices draw nearer, grow louder. The sandaled wayfarers of the soul appear. They advance. Their chant rises with fullest volume as they surge round the rock. They pass on; they are seen no more; for a while their song lingers down the leafy glades; then it too dies out in the distance. Again is the unchanged