

# Southern Stories

**POEMS AND PAINTINGS**

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PUBLICATIONS

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*Poem.*

Poem

JOSEPH BIRSTEIN.

(Freely Translated from the Yiddish.)

I see it written in their hands and eyes,  
Their humiliation.  
My people are oppressed with toil and desolation  
And I am of them.  
Like them I am outcast and alone:  
In my eyes are reflected their regrets,  
For I am a partner to their griefs  
And one with them in all their tears.

I have willing shoulders. The yoke  
They carry on their shoulders  
Joins me in their harness.  
If I am sad, then it is well,  
For in the abyss of their sorrow  
I have my small place.