

CONSTANCY.

The world is wide, my love, the world is wide,
And we are widely parted ; yet 'tis true
That neither day nor night, nor time nor space,
Can separate my love-freed soul from you.

And fate is strong, O love, and fate is strong ;
Yet what is love that cannot conquer fate,
And what is faith that cannot always trust,
And what is strength that is not strong to wait ?

And life, O love, is hard, and life is hard,
Yet grief to love a nobler strength doth lend ;
And gladly would I tread the roughest road
To stand a moment with thee at the end.

And death is sure, O love, and death is sure,
But death can never hide thy soul from me ;
For did'st thou dwell in yonder shining star
My thought would build a bridge of sympathy.

So all the tricks of changing circumstance
Are naught beside a power far above
All time and distance, fate and sullen death—
The mighty power of love that says " I love."