

NIGHT AND THE STARS AND SILENCE.

Night and the stars and silence! World on world
Floating, how softly, in the seas of space!
Bright planet-ships which gliding leave no trace;
Into the luminous ether ever whirled
By Thee, Vast Spinner, at Thy ceaseless wheel,
To glow and mount and struggle back again
Through what vast rapture, through what priceless pain,
Ere soul from fire-mist will, and think, and feel!

What of the one small life, the one tense will,
The little heart-break, the slim tragedy,
The clinging love which passing, passes all!
What of man's hope, his momentary thrill
At sight of loveliness, felicity;
What of Thy Spirit's urgent, fiery call!