

## LIFE.

### (A SKETCH.)

Two pictures—Painlessness and Suffering—  
Gaze only and be silent.

Careless Ease,  
With vagrant fingers toying with the string  
Of Fortune ; careful Pain, upon her knees,  
With earnest effort ravelling the skein  
Of tangled Circumstance : portray'd above,  
Ease gently chiding, sweetly soothing Pain,  
A gracious Providence, enshrined in Love.

Draw nigh, yet gazing.

Fortune's skein, uncheck'd  
And fluent, thro' the warp and woof of Time  
By vagrant fingers woven, doth reflect  
From out Eternity a glimpse sublime :  
A glimpse of Happiness and Joy serene,  
A glimpse of Glory on a distant shore,  
A glimpse of what shall be thro' what hath  
been—

Of Ease consummated for evermore.

More nigh, yet nigher, gazing.

Lo ! the hand  
Of dauntless Pain full-patiently doth weave  
From tangled Circumstance the ravell'd  
strand,

From Chaos order'd Beauty doth achieve ;  
Till mirror'd on the surface Rest and Peace,  
Thro' Time foreshadow'd from Eternity,  
Where weary Toil and Suffering shall cease,  
And fullest recompense of Pain shall be.