

THE EVOLUTION OF WOMAN

Athwart his soul's profundity of sadness
A rainbow gleamed.

Stole o'er his senses an unwonted gladness,
A new delight, half bordering on madness,
And thus he dreamed!

A vision ravishing, most lovely, chaste,
One such as he had seen;
Like, yet unlike, when in the mirrored waste
Of tranquil waters he beheld, amazed,
Himself amid the scene.

The joy awoke him with a blissful start,
When lo! sweet wondering eyes
Looked into his. He knew his better part
And with ripe instinct drew her to his heart
In rapture—loving-wise.

"Oh my beloved! where wert thou concealed?"
He cried in bliss.

Till now the lips of Adam had been sealed,
But speech broke forth when Woman was re-
vealed
In loveliness.