

XXIV

"Then do good deeds while in the flesh, my friend
And trespassers forgive, lest you forget
Such charity, till you have reached the end
Of life with some one unforgiven yet.

XXV

"Take heed that you will e'er remember this,
Lest you, as others did so oft before,
May cross that cold and ever dark abyss
Which separates earth from the spirit shore

XXVI

"Which lieth far beyond the farthest sun,
And trembling stand before high Heaven's court
With unforgiven fault and task undone;
No camouflage to which you can resort.

XXVII

"Be ye a man of lore, unlearned or youth,
Will there, as on earth, avail you naught;
Nor will forensic speech conceal the truth
In your account of deed and word and thought.

XXVIII

"In stilly night I've often wandered here
Far from those realms beyond the starry sky,
O'er that long way, so lonely, dark and drear,
But now the hour of bliss for me draws nigh.

XXIX

'For soon the pearly gates, which now bar me
Through which the sainted souls have ever trod
Will open wide and I shall ever see
The pristine glory of the throne of God.'