

Le stelle e 'l cielo

THE stars, the sky, and all the powers of air,
In this fair Light have set their utmost art,
Which mirrors back all nature's goodliest part
And shines as if no sun were elsewhere.
So lofty is the work, so strange and fair,
Its beauty well might dazzle mortal heart;
For Love did to those radiant eyes impart
The grace and sweetness which are shining there.
And where those soft rays fall the air is sweet,
With purity, and doth strange power obtain
To hold our very thoughts and words in thrall,
No low desires dare approach her seat
But truth and honour—how should this befall
That evil passions are by beauty slain?