

She was so fair, so full of witching wiles—
 Of fascinating tricks of mouth and eye ;
 So womanly withal, but not too shy—
 And all my heaven was compassed by her smiles.

Her soft touch on my cheek and forehead sent,
 Like little arrows, thrills of tenderness
 'Through all my frame. I trembled with excess
 Of love, and sighed the sigh of great content.

When any mortal dares to so rejoice,
 I think a jealous Heaven, bending low,
 Reaches a stern hand forth and deals a blow.
 Sweet through the dusk I heard my lady's voice.

"My love!" she sighed, "my Carlos!" even now
 I feel the perfumed zephyr of her breath
 Bearing to me those words of living death,
 And starting out the cold drops on my brow.

For I am *Paul*—not Carlos! Who is he
 That, in the supreme hour of love's delight,
 Veiled by the shadows of the falling night,
 She should breathe low his name, forgetting me?

I will not ask her! 'twere a fruitless task,
 For, woman-like, she would make me believe
 Some well-told tale; and sigh, and seem to grieve,
 And call me cruel. Nay, I will not ask.