

"Think not, because thy heart means well,  
Thou hast the freedom of rude speech . . .  
Even as thy thought so let thy speech be fair."

He longed for "the law of Peace and Beauty and the death of Strife"; for the day when "self shall be the unseen part, and human kindness all," for he believed that "the end of human life is peace"—peace on earth. He bids us not to draw such distinctions as "the good, the beautiful, the true," since "Beauty is the perfect ring that circles and includes the other two." Worship this beauty he implores,

"For how can he whom Beauty has made sure,  
Who hath her law and sovereign creed by heart,  
Be proud, or pitiless, or play the tyrant's part,  
Be false or envious, greedy or impure?"

From his sonnet, "The Spirit of the House," we may conclude that Lampman's married life was happy. Doubtless his love inspired many a tender verse to the woman he won, but he had the admirable delicacy not to parade his affection publicly. His daughter is the subject of a few pretty verses; of the grief for the loss of his infant son we have a few brief glimpses in his poems. Under the title of "Paternity," he writes:

"For thy sake, nobler visions are unfurled,  
Vistas of tenderer humanity,  
And all the little children of this world  
Are dearer now to me."

We find plenty of evidence that Lampman took a vigorous, sturdy view of life's possibilities, both for the individual and for the race. In "Phokaia," he says:

"Insight and splendor of mind  
Not they that are yielding and lovers of ease shall find,  
But only of strength comes wisdom, and only of faith comes  
truth."

"For stormy times and ruined plans  
Make keener the determined will,  
And Fate with all its gloomy bans  
Is but the spirit's vassal still."

There is certainly nothing half-hearted about Lampman's estimate of virtue. It is a pity thus to mutilate the poem by quotations:

"I deem that virtue but a thing of straw  
That is not self-subsistent, needs the press  
Of sharp-eyed custom, or the point of law  
To teach it honor, justice, gentleness . . .