

## IX

O heart of stone, are you flesh, and caught  
 By that you swore to withstand?  
 270 For what was it else within me wrought  
 But, I fear, the new strong wine of love,  
 That made my tongue so stammer and trip  
 When I saw the treasured splendour, her hand,  
 Come sliding out of her sacred glove,  
 275 And the sunlight broke from her lip.

## X

I have play'd with her when a child;  
 She remembers it now we meet.  
 Ah well, well, well, I *may* be beguiled  
 By some coquettish deceit,  
 280 Yet, if she were not a cheat,  
 If Maud were all that she seem'd,  
 And her smile had all that I dream'd,  
 Then the world were not so bitter  
 But a smile could make it sweet.

## VII

## I

285 Did I hear it half in a doze  
 Long since, I know not where?  
 Did I dream it an hour ago,  
 When asleep in this arm-chair?

## II

Men were drinking together,  
 290 Drinking and talking of me;  
 "Well, if it prove a girl, the boy  
 Will have plenty:<sup>1</sup> so let it be."

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<sup>1</sup> *Will have plenty.* See lines 720-724.