

II

How live then ?—Heathen wisdom cries,
Eat, drink, and die ! God takes no heed.
Believe, returns the Christian creed,
Immortal soul 'neath sleepless eyes.

'Twixt these I falter, fain to see
Some byeway easier. But a voice
Cries, Faith or No Faith is the choice :
Earth here, Heaven yonder—which for thee ?

How gainsay ? To whate'er extreme
The soul run wildly, I know well
Worldling at heart is infidel ;
One soul-quake ends the lotus-dream.

I yield ; and since Earth cannot fill
My soul's desire, my heart's dismay,
I choose Belief ; I kneel, and say,
What is my end, and what His will ?

III

Behold me in the hand of One
More awful than the sum of woe,
A mote of misery below
An eye unsleeping as the sun.

How can I fail offend His power ?
A pulse too quick doth disobey ;
Hell's at my feet ; one step astray—
Eternity atones an hour.

I see beneath the headsman's mask
The judge's eyes. All changes name ;
Love he writes Sin, and Pleasure, Shame ;
Sev'n deadly snares His sev'n days' task.