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#### CATERINA TO CAMOENS.

BY MRS. BROWNING.

On the door yen will not enter.

I have gazed a long adden,
Hope withdraws her peradventure
Death is near me, and not 1901 '
Come, O lover' close, and cover
These poor eyes you called, I ween,
"Sweetest eyes were ever seen."

When I heard you sing that burden In my vernal days and lowers, Other praises disregarding, I but harkened that of yours, Only saying, in heart-playing, Blessed eyes mine eyes have been. If the sweetest his have seen!

But all changeth. At this vesper, Cold the sun shines down the door. If you stood there, would you whisper, "Love, I love you," as before, — Death pervading now and shading Eyes you sang of, that yestreen, As the sweetest ever even?

Yes! I think, were you beside them, Near the bed I die upon,— Though their beauty you denied them, As you stood there, looking down, You would truly call them duly, For the love's sake found therein,— "Sweetest eyes were ever seen."

And if von looked down upon them, And if they looked up at you, All the light which has foregone them Would be gathered back anew: They would truly be as duly Lave-transformed to beauty's sheen,— "Sweetest eyes were ever seen."

But, ah me' you only see me In your thoughts of loving man, Smiling soft, perhaps, and dreamy, Through the wavings of my fan, And unweeting go repeating, In your reverie serene, "Sweetest eyes were ever seen."

While my spirit leans and reaches From my body still and pale. Fain to hear what tender speech In your love, to help my tale, O. my poet, come and show Come of latest love to glean, "Sweetest eyes were ever seen."

O my poet, O my prophet,
When you praised their sweetness so,
Did you think, in singing of it,
That it might be near to go?
Had you fancies from their glances,
That the grave would quickly screen
"Sweetest eyes were ever seen?"

No reply: The fountain's warble in the court-yard sounds alone As the water to the marble, So my heart falls with a moan, From lone sighing to thus dying! Death forerunneth love to win "Sweetest eyes were ever seen."

Will you come? When I'm departed,
When all sweetnesses are hidWhen thy voice, my tender-hearted,
Will not lift up either lid—
('ry, O lover, love is over!
Cry, beneath the cypress green"Sweetest eyes were over seen."

When the angelus is ringing,
Near the convent will you walk.
And recall the choral singing
Which brought angels down our tal
Spirit-shriven I viewed heaven,
Till you smiled "Is earth unclean?"
"Sweetest eyes were ever seen."

When beneath the palace-lattice
You ride slow as you have done,
And you see a face there—that is
Not the old familiar one,—
Will you oftly nurmur softly,
"Here you watched me, noon and e'en,
Sweetest eyes were ever seen?"

When the palace ladies sitting
Round your ghittern, shall have said.
"Poet, sing those verses written
For the lady who is dead -Will you tremble, yet dissemble,
Or sing hoarse, with tears between,
"Sweetest eyes were ever seen?"

"Sweetest eyes!" How sweet in flowings
The repeated cadence is!
Though you sang a hundred poems,
Still the best one would be this—
I can hear it twixt my spirit
And the earth-noise, intervene—
"Sweetest eyes were ever seen."

But the priest waits for the praying,
And the choir are on their knees,—
And the soul must pass away in
Strains more solemn high than there:
Miserere for the wearyOh, no longer for Catrine,
"Sweetest eyes were over seen."