

And a voice murmured, 'I your guerdon give—  
My last on earth—that while you here must live,  
No kiss unholy shall your spirit part  
From her, whose love on earth secured your heart  
From passions banished from that deathless shore,  
Where love ineffable reigns evermore.'

Then, 'neath the branches of a giant tree,  
Athenase, father, and my lost Marie,  
Seemed calmly gazing on me, and to fade  
Into the shadows of the leafy glade.

And I—I fainted. \* \* \* \*

