

DARWIN

ETERNAL night and solitude of space;
Breath as of vapour crimsoning to flame;
Far constellations moving in the same
Invariable order and the pace
That times the sun, or earth's elliptic race
Among the planets: Life—dumb, blind and lame—
Creeping from form to form, until her shame
Blends with the beauty of a human face!

Death can not claim what Life so hardly won
Out of her ancient warfare with the Void—
O Man! whose day is only now begun,
Go forth with her and do what she hath done;
Till thy last enemy—Death—be destroyed,
And earth outshine the splendour of the sun.