

When once you've died, and death's stern judge has made
Clear sentence, thee concerning,
Though birth, worth, eloquence, are all arrayed,
For thee there's no returning.

For from the shades Diana may not take
Hippolytus, th'unspotted,
Nor Lethe's chains from off his friend to break
To Theseus 'tis allotted.

Sept. 28th, 1880.

SELF-EFFACEMENT.

Who pleases but himself is slave of slaves,
Who pleases not himself alone is free;
Unfettered Tsars are pliant tools of knaves
And freedom gain, proclaiming liberty :
Efface thyself if thou wouldst something be.

Nov. 1905.

SINCERITY AND TRUTH.

"What matters my belief if 'tis sincere?
Where'er I walk, I have no need to fear,—
Through furnace flame or on foam crested wave
Or on thin air, or in a darksome cave
Wherein are beasts of prey—provided I
Am quite convinced there is no danger nigh."
O self-conceited sage or verdant youth,
Too late thou'lt find there's nought sincere but truth!