

IF I WERE GOD—

The eternal world contains Gethsemane.— Royce.

‘If I were God,’ said one whom Nature mocked—
‘The World anew would I in love create:
‘Benignest aspect sea and sky should wear,
‘The bounteous earth the fruits of gladness bear,—
‘If I were God!’

‘If I were God,’ said one whom Hope forsook—
‘The World anew would I in love create:
‘No more should sons of men tempt high emprise,
‘Nor blindly stretch vain hands unto the skies,—
‘If I were God!’

‘If I were God,’ said one whom Trial wracked—
‘The World anew would I in love create:
‘From human brows should fall no bitter sweat
‘Nor hearts heroic taste the Long Regret,—
‘If I were God!’

To them the Man of Sorrows: ‘Peace, O son!
‘Begrime not thus thy speech with earth’s foul dust:
‘Each day I drink thy Cup of Agony:
‘Each night I pray in thy Gethsemane—
‘And I, O son, am God!’