

Dancing to the immortal bars
Of the ringing music of the spheres.
Fire-flies dance glittering in the dark,
King David danced before the ark;
Fair Miriam and her female bands
Danced, bearing timbrels in their hands;
When Judith had Holofernes slain
And made Bethulia free again,
The dance triumphantly she led,
An olive-wreath upon her head.
Why cavil then that merrily
I dance midst Bacchic revelry?
Through mazy measures will I stray,
Pursuing pleasure while I may.¹

¹ This Anacreontic was suggested by the nineteenth ode of the Anacreontea. As that ode is an apology for drinking, so is this poem a summing up of the arguments for dancing. For most of the allusions herein contained I must acknowledge my indebtedness to Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*, Part III., Sec. 2, Mem. 2, Subj. 4, viz. "Artificial Allurements." The passage in question is as follows:—

"Let them take pleasure as he said of old, young men and maidens flourishing in their age, fair and lovely to behold, well attired and of a comely carriage dancing a Greek galliard, and as their dance required, kept their time, now turning, now tracing, now apart, now together, now a courtesy, then a caper, etc.; and it was a pleasant sight to see these pretty