

‘The Ladies’

THE toast to which you ask reply,
‘The Ladies,’ puzzles every man:
Yet none can tell the reason why.

The theme, how matchless! What can vie
With Beauty decked in silks and fan—
The toast to which you ask reply?

Each makes his choice—coquette or shy,
Complexion dark or fair or tan:—
Yet none can tell the reason why.

Our mothers, sisters, sweethearts, aye,
Our wives we pledge since men began
The toast to which you ask reply.

We pledge the ladies who defy
Our sex, as one whose arts trapan:
Yet none can tell the reason why.