

## The Lamp Stand

Constantine the Great kissed the hole in the face of Paphnutius  
out of which Maximinius had bored his eye for the profession of his  
faith. The Great Emperor making much of the socket even when the  
candle was put out.

He kissed the lamp-stand when the light had flown,  
Back to its primal source of central fire;  
Oh, hands of cruel men what marks ye make,  
Blotting the glory from the face of man,  
Which like a mirror bore the face of Christ.  
The fragile lantern lost it power to bless,  
But light eternal reached superior bliss,  
And mingled in the rays of light divine.