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THE stars that glimmer in the depths of night
Are worlds as large and brilliant as the sun,
Whose blazing light doth hide their modest rays:
'Tis distance dwindles them to twinkling dots,
'Tis darkness only that reveals their light.
So with mankind—the blaze of selfishness
May fill the universe and hide all else
In floods of self-conceitedness:
But let each hide his light in generous shade,
And on his former blinded sight will shine
The light of others, faint at first and weak,
But, closer viewed, increasing bright and fair,
Most brilliant beams, far-streaming from great suns,
Illuming systems vast, and shedding light
On worlds as great as he, who, seen afar,
But faintly twinkles as twixt life and death.
In our own light we are the universe,
But in the light of heaven we are specks
Controlled by laws of universal sway,
Bound to a whole, grand, orderly, sublime.