

“BY THE LOVE.”

Instant the child clasped home her trembling hand,  
And passed without the gates, nor backward lookt.  
Silent he went, for expectation held  
Him fast, and a great light was on her face.

Entering her home, she bade that food be given  
The famished boy; and when the maid brought milk,  
Honey and bread with broilèd fish, he said,  
With exultation: “Now I know this is  
The house—it’s all here just the same, and He’ll  
Be here to-night.” With wingèd feet the wife  
Sped up the stair to meet her husband’s step,  
And in a rapture told him all, and of  
The wonder-heart below: “Heaven, a fair child,  
An angel boy, has sent our stone to roll  
Away! For us his vision is no less  
Than for himself. O husband, this is life’s  
Supremest hour for us!—‘*I shall know him  
By the love,*’ sweetly he says.”—“It shall be  
So indeed!” cried the father’s yearning heart.

As she returned, the child most eager said,  
In a sweet voice half-sob, but full of hope,