

V.

Oh mistress fair, not strangers I and thee;
Thyself have I adored in secret, long,
And heard with joy thy sweet voice raised in
song,

Whilst we together 'neath the same roof tree
Have lived and moved. Ah! canst thou see
That love hath filled my heart and made me
strong?

VI.

'Tis thus I am emboldened now to plead,
Upon my bended knee, and crave the gift
Of thy most beauteous smile, to lift
Me to the Empyrean, beyond the need
Of mortal longing, and to be indeed
No longer in life's maelstrom lost, adrift.