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☛ "AND GOLD-EYED AS THE SHORE-  
FLOWER SHELTERLESS

Whereon the sharp-breathed sea blows bitterness,  
A storm-star that the seafarers of love  
Strain their wind-wearied eyes for glimpses of,  
Shoots keen through February's grey frost and  
damp

The lamplike star of Hero for a lamp ;

The star that Marlowe sang into our skies

With mouth of gold, and morning in his eyes ;"

Swinburne

TO  
THE RIGHT-WORSHIPFUL SIR THOMAS  
WALSINGHAM, KNIGHT.

SIR, We think not ourselves discharged of the duty we owe to our friend when we have brought the breathless body to the earth; for, albeit the eye there taketh his ever-farewell of that beloved object, yet the impression of the man that hath been dear unto us, living an after-life in our memory, there putteth us in mind of farther obsequies due unto the deceased; and namely of the performance of whatsoever we may judge shall make to his living credit and to the effecting of his determinations prevented by the stroke of death. By these meditations (as by intellectual will) I suppose myself executor to the unhappily deceased author of this poem; upon whom, knowing that in his lifetime you bestowed many kind favours, entertaining the parts of reckoning and worth which you found in him with good countenance and liberal affection, I cannot but see so far into the will of him dead, that whatsoever issue of his brain should chance to come abroad, that the first breath it should take might be the gentle air of your liking; for, since his self had been accustomed thereunto, it would prove more agreeable and thriving to his right children than any other foster



countenance whatsoever. At this time seeing that this unfinished tragedy happens under my hands to be imprinted, of a double duty, the one to yourself, the other to the deceased, I present the same to your most favourable allowance, offering my utmost self now and ever to be ready at your worship's disposing.

EDWARD BLUNT.

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HERO AND LEANDER BY  
CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE  
AND  
GEORGE CHAPMAN



Hero's description and her love's;  
The fane of Venus where he moves  
His worthy love-suit, and attains;  
Whose bliss the wrath of Fates restrains  
For Cupid's grace to Mercury:  
Which tale the author doth imply.



IN HELLESPONT, GUILTY  
OF TRUE LOVE'S BLOOD,  
IN VIEW AND OPPOSITE  
TWO CITIES STOOD, SEA-  
BORDERERS, DISJOINED BY  
NEPTUNE'S MIGHT; THE  
ONE ABYDOS, THE OTHER  
SESTOS HIGHT. ❧

AT SESTOS HERO  
DWELT; HERO THE FAIR, WHOM  
YOUNG APOLLO COURTED FOR HER  
HAIR, AND OFFERED AS A DOWER  
HIS BURNING THRONE, WHERE SHE  
SHOULD SIT, FOR MEN TO GAZE UPON.

❧ THE OUTSIDE OF HER GARMENTS  
WERE OF LAWN, THE LINING PURPLE  
SILK, WITH GILT STARS DRAWN; HER  
WIDE SLEEVES GREEN, AND BORDERED  
WITH A GROVE, WHERE VENUS IN  
HER NAKED GLORY STROVE TO  
PLEASE THE CARELESS AND DISDAIN-  
FUL EYES OF PROUD ADONIS,  
THAT BEFORE HER LIES; HER  
KIRTLE BLUE, WHEREON WAS MANY  
A STAIN, MADE WITH THE BLOOD OF  
WRETCHED LOVERS SLAIN. ❧

UPON  
HER HEAD SHE WARE A MYRTLE  
WREATH, FROM WHENCE HER VEIL  
REACHED TO THE GROUND BENEATH:

Her veil was artificial flowers and leaves,  
Whose workmanship both man and beast deceives:  
Many would praise the sweet smell as she past,  
When 'twas the odour which her breath forth cast;  
And there for honey bees have sought in vain,  
And, beat from thence, have lighted there again.  
About her neck hung chains of pebble-stone,  
Which, lightened by her neck, like diamonds  
shone.

She ware no gloves; for neither sun nor wind  
Would burn or parch her hands, but, to her mind,  
Or warm or cool them, for they took delight  
To play upon those hands, they were so white.  
Buskins of shells, all silvered, usèd she,  
And branched with blushing coral to the knee;  
Where sparrows perched, of hollow pearl and gold,  
Such as the world would wonder to behold:  
Those with sweet water oft her handmaid fills,  
Which, as she went, would cherup through the  
bills.

Some say, for her the fairest Cupid pined,  
And, looking in her face, was strooken blind.  
But this is true; so like was one the other,  
As he imagined Hero was his mother;  
And oftentimes into her bosom flew,  
About her naked neck his bare arms threw,  
And laid his childish head upon her breast,  
And, with still panting rock, there took his rest.

So lovely fair was Hero, Venus' nun,  
As Nature wept, thinking she was undone.  
Because she took more from her than she left,  
And of such wondrous beauty her bereft :  
Therefore, in sign her treasure suffered wrack,  
Since Hero's time hath half the world been black.

Amorous Leander, beautiful and young,  
(Whose tragedy divine Musæus sung,)  
Dwelt at Abydos ; since him dwelt there none  
For whom succeeding times make greater moan.  
His dangling tresses, that were never shorn,  
Had they been cut, and unto Colchos borne,  
Would have allured the venturous youth of Greece  
To hazard more than for the golden fleece.  
Fair Cynthia wished his arms might be her sphere ;  
Grief makes her pale, because she moves not there.  
His body was as straight as Circe's wand ;  
Jove might have sipt out nectar from his hand.  
Even as delicious meat is to the taste,  
So was his neck in touching, and surpast  
The white of Pelops' shoulder : I could tell ye,  
How smooth his breast was, and how white his  
belly ;  
And whose immortal fingers did imprint  
That heavenly path with many a curious dint,  
That runs along his back ; but my rude pen  
Can hardly blazon forth the loves of men,  
Much less of powerful gods : let it suffice

That my slack Muse sings of Leander's eyes ;  
 Those orient cheeks and lips, exceeding his  
 That leapt into the water for a kiss  
 Of his own shadow, and, despising many,  
 Died ere he could enjoy the love of any.  
 Had wild Hippolytus Leander seen,  
 Enamoured of his beauty had he been :  
 His presence made the rudest peasant melt,  
 That in the vast uplandish country dwelt ;  
 The barbarous Thracian soldier, moved with  
 naught,  
 Was moved with him, and for his favour sought.  
 Some swore he was a maid in man's attire,  
 For in his looks were all that men desire,—  
 A pleasant-smiling cheek, a speaking eye,  
 A brow for love to banquet royally ;  
 And such as knew he was a man would say,  
 "Leander, thou art made for amorous play :  
 Why art thou not in love, and loved of all ?  
 Though thou be fair, yet be not thine own  
 thrall."

The men of wealthy Sestos every year,  
 For his sake whom their goddess held so dear,  
 Rose-cheeked Adonis, kept a solemn feast ;  
 Thither resorted many a wandering guest  
 To meet their loves : such as had none at all,  
 Came lovers home from this great festival ;  
 For every street, like to a firmament,



Glistered with breathing stars, who, where they  
went,  
Frighted the melancholy earth, which deemed  
Eternal heaven to burn, for so it seemed,  
As if another Phaëton had got  
The guidance of the sun's rich chariot.  
But, far above the loveliest, Hero shined,  
And stole away the enchanted gazer's mind ;  
For like sea-nymphs' inveigling harmony,  
So was her beauty to the standers by ;  
Nor that night-wandering, pale, and watery star  
(When yawning dragons draw her thirling car  
From Latmus' mount up to the gloomy sky,  
Where, crowned with blazing light and majesty,  
She proudly sits) more over-rules the flood  
Than she the hearts of those that near her stood.  
Even as when gaudy nymphs pursue the chase,  
Wretched Ixion's shaggy-footed race,  
Incensed with savage heat, gallop amain  
From steep pine-bearing mountains to the plain,  
So ran the people forth to gaze upon her,  
And all that viewed her were enamoured on her :  
And as in fury of a dreadful fight,  
Their fellows being slain or put to flight,  
Poor soldiers stand with fear of death dead-  
strooken,  
So at her presence all surprised and tooken,  
Await the sentence of her scornful eyes ;

He whom she favours lives ; the other dies :  
There might you see one sigh ; another rage ;  
And some, their violent passions to assuage,  
Compile sharp satires ; but, alas, too late !  
For faithful love will never turn to hate ;  
And many, seeing great princes were denied,  
Pined as they went, and thinking on her, died.  
On this feast-day—oh, cursèd day and hour !—  
Went Hero, thorough Sestos, from her tower  
To Venus' temple, where unhappily,  
As after chanced, they did each other spy.  
So fair a church as this had Venus none :  
The walls were of discoloured jasper-stone,  
Wherein was Proteus carved ; and over-head  
A lively vine of green sea-agate spread,  
Where by one hand light-headed Bacchus hung,  
And with the other wine from grapes outwung.  
Of crystal shining fair the pavement was ;  
The town of Sestos called it Venus' glass :  
There might you see the gods, in sundry shapes,  
Committing heady riots, incest, rapes ;  
For know, that underneath this radiant floor  
Was Danae's statue in a brazen tower ;  
Jove slily stealing from his sister's bed,  
To dally with Idalian Ganymed,  
And for his love Europa bellowing loud,  
And tumbling with the Rainbow in a cloud ;  
Blood-quaffing Mars heaving the iron net

Which limping Vulcan and his Cyclops set ;  
Love kindling fire, to burn such towns as Troy ;  
Sylvanus weeping for the lovely boy  
That now is turned into a cypress-tree,  
Under whose shade the wood-gods love to be.  
And in the midst a silver altar stood :  
There Hero, sacrificing turtles' blood,  
Vailed to the ground, veiling her eyelids close ;  
And modestly they opened as she rose :  
Thence flew Love's arrow with the golden head ;  
And thus Leander was enamourèd.  
Stone-still he stood, and evermore he gazed,  
Till with the fire, that from his countenance  
blazed,  
Relenting Hero's gentle heart was strook :  
Such force and virtue hath an amorous look.

It lies not in our power to love or hate,  
For will in us is over-ruled by fate.  
When two are stript, long ere the course begin,  
We wish that one should lose, the other win ;  
And one especially do we affect  
Of two gold ingots, like in each respect :  
The reason no man knows ; let it suffice,  
What we behold is censured by our eyes.  
Where both deliberate, the love is slight :  
Who ever loved, that loved not at first sight ?

He kneeled ; but unto her devoutly prayed ;  
Chaste Hero to herself thus softly said,

“ Were I the saint he worships, I would hear him ; ”

And as she spake those words, came somewhat near him.

He started up ; she blushed as one ashamed ;  
Wherewith Leander much more was inflamed.

He touched her hand ; in touching it she trembled :

Love deeply grounded, hardly is dissembled.

These lovers parled by the touch of hands :

True love is mute, and oft amazèd stands.

Thus while dumb signs their yielding hearts entangled,

The air with sparks of living fire was spangled ;

And Night, deep-drenched in misty Acheron,

Heaved up her head, and half the world upon

Breathed darkness forth (dark night is Cupid's

day) :

And now begins Leander to display

Love's holy fire, with words, with sighs, and tears ;

Which, like sweet music, entered Hero's ears ;

And yet at every word she turned aside,

And always cut him off, as he replied.

At last, like to a bold sharp sophister,

With cheerful hope thus he accosted her.

“ Fair creature, let me speak without offence :

I would my rude words had the influence

To lead thy thoughts as thy fair looks do mine !

☞ Hermes  
disdains  
the  
amorous  
destinies



Then shouldst thou be his prisoner, who is thine.

Be not unkind and fair ; misshapen stuff

Are of behaviour boisterous and rough.

Oh, shun me not, but hear me ere you go !

God knows, I cannot force love as you do :

My words shall be as spotless as my youth,

Full of simplicity and naked truth.

This sacrifice, whose sweet perfume descending

13 From

From Venus' altar, to your footsteps bending,  
Doth testify that you exceed her far,  
To whom you offer, and whose nun you are.  
Why should you worship her? her you surpass  
As much as sparkling diamonds flaring glass.  
A diamond set in lead his worth retains ;  
A heavenly nymph, beloved of human swains,  
Receives no blemish, but ofttimes more grace ;  
Which makes me hope, although I am but base,  
Base in respect of thee divine and pure,  
Dutiful service may thy love procure ;  
And I in duty will excel all other,  
As thou in beauty dost exceed Love's mother.  
Nor heaven nor thou were made to gaze upon :  
As heaven preserves all things, so save thou one.  
A stately-builted ship, well-rigged and tall,  
The ocean maketh more majestic :  
Why vowest thou, then, to live in Sestos here,  
Who on Love's seas more glorious wouldst  
appear ?

Like untuned golden strings all women are,  
Which long time lie untouched, will harshly jar,  
Vessels of brass, oft handled, brightly shine :  
What difference betwixt the richest mine  
And basest mould, but use? for both, not used,  
Are of like worth. Then treasure is abused,  
When misers keep it : being put to loan,  
In time it will return us two for one.

Rich robes themselves and others do adorn ;  
Neither themselves nor others, if not worn.  
Who builds a palace, and rams up the gate,  
Shall see it ruinous and desolate :  
Ah, simple Hero, learn thyself to cherish !  
Lone women, like to empty houses, perish.  
Less sins the poor rich man, that starves himself  
In heaping up a mass of drossy pelf,  
Than such as you : his golden earth remains,  
Which, after his decease, some other gains ;  
But this fair gem, sweet in the loss alone,  
When you fleet hence, can be bequeathed to none ;  
Or, if it could, down from th' enamelled sky  
All heaven would come to claim this legacy,  
And with intestine broils the world destroy,  
And quite confound Nature's sweet harmony.  
Well therefore by the gods decreed it is,  
We human creatures should enjoy that bliss.  
One is no number ; maids are nothing, then,  
Without the sweet society of men.  
Wilt thou live single still ? one shalt thou be,  
Though never-singling Hymen couple thee.  
Wild savages, that drink of running springs,  
Think water far excels all earthly things ;  
But they, that daily taste neat wine, despise it :  
Virginity, albeit some highly prize it,  
Compared with marriage, had you tried them both,  
Differs as much as wine and water doth.

Base bullion for the stamp's sake we allow :  
 Even so for men's impression do we you ;  
 By which alone, our reverend fathers say,  
 Women receive perfection every way.  
 This idol, which you term virginity,  
 Is neither essence subject to the eye,  
 No, nor to any one exterior sense,  
 Nor hath it any place of residence,  
 Nor is 't of earth or mould celestial,  
 Or capable of any form at all.  
 Of that which hath no being, do not boast :  
 Things that are not at all, are never lost.  
 Men foolishly do call it virtuous :  
 What virtue is it, that is born with us ?  
 Much less can honour be ascribed thereto :  
 Honour is purchased by the deeds we do ;  
 Believe me, Hero, honour is not won,  
 Until some honourable deed be done.  
 Seek you, for chastity, immortal fame,  
 And know that some have wronged Diana's name?  
 Whose name is it, if she be false or not,  
 So she be fair, but some vile tongues will blot ?  
 But you are fair, ah me ! so wondrous fair,  
 So young, so gentle, and so debonair,  
 As Greece will think, if thus you live alone,  
 Some one or other keeps you as his own.  
 Then, Hero, hate me not, nor from me fly,  
 To follow swiftly-blasting infamy.



Perhaps thy sacred priesthood makes thee loth :  
Tell me, to whom mad'st thou that heedless  
oath ? ”

“To Venus,” answered she ; and, as she spake,  
Forth from those two tralucēt cisterns brake  
A stream of liquid pearl, which down her face  
Made milk-white paths, whereon the gods might  
trace

To Jove's high court. He thus replied : “The  
rites

In which love's beauteous empress most delights  
Are banquets, Doric music, midnight revel,  
Plays, masques, and all that stern age counteth  
evil.

Thee as a holy idiot doth she scorn ;  
For thou, in vowing chastity, hast sworn  
To rob her name and honour, and thereby  
Committ'st a sin far worse than perjury,  
Even sacrilege against her deity,  
Through regular and formal purity.

To expiate which sin, kiss and shake hands :  
Such sacrifice as this Venus demands.”

Thereat she smiled, and did deny him so,  
As put thereby, yet might he hope for mo ;  
Which makes him quickly reinforce his speech,  
And her in humble manner thus beseech :

“ Though neither gods nor men may thee deserve,  
Yet, for her sake, whom you have vowed to serve,

Abandon fruitless cold virginity,  
 The gentle Queen of love's sole enemy.  
 Then shall you most resemble Venus' nun,  
 When Venus' sweet rites are performed and done.  
 Flint-breasted Pallas joys in single life ;  
 But Pallas and your mistress are at strife.  
 Love, Hero, then, and be not tyrannous ;  
 But heal the heart that thou hast wounded thus ;  
 Nor stain thy youthful years with avarice :  
 Fair fools delight to be accounted nice.  
 The richest corn dies, if it be not reapt ;  
 Beauty alone is lost, too warily kept."  
 These arguments he used, and many more ;  
 Wherewith she yielded, that was won before.  
 Hero's looks yielded, but her words made war :  
 Women are won when they begin to jar.  
 Thus, having swallowed Cupid's golden hook,  
 The more she strived, the deeper was she strook :  
 Yet, evilly feigning anger, strove she still,  
 And would be thought to grant against her will.  
 So having paused a while, at last she said,  
 " Who taught thee rhetoric to deceive a maid ?  
 Ah me ! such words as these should I abhor,  
 And yet I like them for the orator."  
 With that, Leander stooped to have embraced her  
 But from his spreading arms away she cast her,  
 And thus bespake him : " Gentle youth, forbear  
 To touch the sacred garments which I wear.

Upon a rock, and underneath a hill,  
Far from the town (where all is whist and still,  
Save that the sea, playing on yellow sand,  
Sends forth a rattling murmur to the land,  
Whose sound allures the golden Morpheus  
In silence of the night to visit us)  
My turret stands ; and there, God knows, I play  
With Venus' swans and sparrows all the day.  
A dwarfish beldam bears me company,  
That hops about the chamber where I lie,  
And spends the night, that might be better spent,  
In vain discourse and apish merriment :—  
Come thither." As she spake this, her tongue  
tripped,  
For unawares, "Come thither," from her slipped ;  
And suddenly her former colour changed,  
And here and there her eyes through anger  
ranged ;  
And, like a planet moving several ways  
At one self instant, she, poor soul, assays,  
Loving, not to love at all, and every part  
Strove to resist the motions of her heart :  
And hands so pure, so innocent, nay, such  
As might have made Heaven stoop to have a  
touch,  
Did she uphold to Venus, and again  
Vowed spotless chastity ; but all in vain ;  
Cupid beat down her prayers with his wings ;

Her vows above the empty air he flings ;  
All deep enraged, his sinewy bow he bent,  
And shot a shaft that burning from him went ;  
Wherewith she strooken, looked so dolefully,  
As made Love sigh to see his tyranny ;  
And, as she wept, her tears to pearl he turned,  
And wound them on his arm, and for her  
mourned.

Then towards the palace of the Destinies,  
Laden with languishment and grief, he flies,  
And to those stern nymphs humbly made request,  
Both might enjoy each other, and be blest.  
But with a ghastly dreadful countenance,  
Threatening a thousand deaths at every glance,  
They answered Love, nor would vouchsafe so  
much

As one poor word, their hate to him was such :  
Hearken a while, and I will tell you why.

Heaven's wingèd herald, Jove-born Mercury,  
The self-same day that he asleep had laid  
Enchanted Argus, spied a country maid,  
Whose careless hair, instead of pearl t' adorn it,  
Glistered with dew, as one that seemed to scorn it ;  
Her breath as fragrant as the morning rose ;  
Her mind pure, and her tongue untaught to glose ;  
Yet proud she was (for lofty Pride that dwells  
In towered courts, is oft in shepherds' cells),  
And too, too well the fair vermilion knew

And silver tincture of her cheeks, that drew  
The love of every swain. On her this god  
Enamoured was, and with his snaky rod  
Did charm her nimble feet, and made her stay,  
The while upon a hillock down he lay,  
And sweetly on his pipe began to play,  
And with smooth speech her fancy to assay,  
Till in his twining arms he locked her fast,  
And then he wooed with kisses ; and at last,  
As shepherds do, her on the ground he laid,  
And, tumbling in the grass, he often strayed  
Beyond the bounds of shame, in being bold  
To eye those parts which no eye should behold ;  
And, like an insolent commanding lover,  
Boasting his parentage, would needs discover  
The way to new Elysium. But she,  
Whose only dower was her chastity,  
Having striven in vain, was now about to cry,  
And crave the help of shepherds that were nigh.  
Herewith he stayed his fury, and began  
To give her leave to rise : away she ran ;  
After went Mercury, who used such cunning,  
As she, to hear his tale, left off her running ;  
(Maids are not won by brutish force and might,  
But speeches full of pleasures and delight ;)  
And, knowing Hermes courted her, was glad  
That she such loveliness and beauty had  
As could provoke his liking ; yet was mute,

And neither would deny nor grant his suit.  
Still vowed he love : she, wanting no excuse  
To feed him with delays, as women use,  
Or thirsting after immortality,  
(All women are ambitious naturally,)  
Imposed upon her lover such a task,  
As he ought not perform, nor yet she ask ;  
A draught of flowing nectar she requested,  
Wherewith the king of gods and men is feasted.  
He, ready to accomplish what she willed,  
Stole some from Hebe (Hebe Jove's cup filled),  
And gave it to his simple rustic love :  
Which being known—as what is hid from Jove?—  
He inly stormed, and waxed more furious  
Than for the fire filched by Prometheus ;  
And thrusts him down from heaven. He,  
wandering here,  
In mournful terms, with sad and heavy cheer,  
Complained to Cupid ; Cupid, for his sake,  
To be revenged on Jove did undertake ;  
And those on whom heaven, earth, and hell relies,  
I mean the adamantine Destinies,  
He wounds with love, and forced them equally  
To dote upon deceitful Mercury.  
They offered him the deadly fatal knife  
That shears the slender threads of human life ;  
At his fair-feathered feet the engines laid,  
Which th' earth from ugly Chaos' den upweighed.

These he regarded not ; but did entreat  
That Jove, usurper of his father's seat,  
Might presently be banished into hell,  
And aged Saturn in Olympus dwell.  
They granted what he craved ; and once again  
Saturn and Ops began their golden reign :  
Murder, rape, war, and lust, and treachery,  
Were with Jove closed in Stygian empery.  
But long this blessed time continued not :  
As soon as he his wishèd purpose got,  
He, reckless of his promise, did despise  
The love of th' everlasting Destinies.  
They, seeing it, both Love and him abhorred,  
And Jupiter unto his place restored :  
And, but that Learning, in despite of Fate,  
Will mount aloft, and enter heaven-gate,  
And to the seat of Jove itself advance,  
Hermes had slept in hell with Ignorance.  
Yet, as a punishment, they added this ;  
That he and Poverty should always kiss :  
And to this day is every scholar poor :  
Gross gold from them runs headlong to the boor.  
Likewise the angry Sisters, thus deluded,  
To 'venge themselves on Hermes, have concluded  
That Midas' brood shall sit in Honour's chair,  
To which the Muses' sons are only heir ;  
And fruitful wits, that inaspiring are,  
Shall, discontent, run into regions far ;

And few great lords in virtuous deeds shall joy,  
But be surprised with every garish toy,  
And still enrich the lofty servile clown,  
Who with encroaching guile keeps learning down.  
Then muse not Cupid's suit no better sped,  
Seeing in their loves the Fates were injurèd.



THE ARGUMENT OF THE  
SECOND SESTIAD.

Hero of love takes deeper sense,  
And doth her love more recompense ;  
Their first night's meeting, where sweet kisses  
Are th' only crowns of both their blisses,  
He swims to Abydos, and returns :  
Cold Neptune with his beauty burns ;  
Whose suit he shuns, and doth aspire  
Hero's fair tower and his desire.



Y this, sad Hero, with love  
unacquainted,  
Viewing Leander's face, fell  
down and fainted.  
He kissed her, and breathed  
life into her lips ;  
Wherewith, as one displeas'd,  
away she trips ;  
Yet, as she went, full often looked behind,  
And many poor excuses did she find  
To linger by the way, and once she stay'd,  
And would have turned again, but was afraid,  
In offering parley, to be counted light :  
So on she goes, and in her idle flight,  
Her painted fan of curled plumes let fall,  
Thinking to train Leander therewithal.  
He, being a novice, knew not what she meant,  
But stay'd, and after her a letter sent ;  
Which joyful Hero answered in such sort,  
As he had hope to scale the beauteous fort  
Wherein the liberal Graces lock'd their wealth ;  
And therefore to her tower he got by stealth.  
Wide-open stood the door ; he need not climb ;  
And she herself, before the 'pointed time,  
Had spread the board, with roses strow'd the  
room,  
And oft look'd out, and mused he did not come.  
At last he came : oh, who can tell the greeting  
These

These greedy lovers had at their first meeting ?  
He asked ; she gave ; and nothing was denied ;  
Both to each other quickly were affied :  
Look how their hands, so were their hearts united,  
And what he did, she willingly requited.  
(Sweet are the kisses, the embracements sweet,  
When like desires and like affections meet ;  
For from the earth to heaven is Cupid raised,  
Where fancy is in equal balance paised.)  
Yet she this rashness suddenly repented,  
And turned aside, and to herself lamented,  
As if her name and honour had been wronged  
By being possessed of him for whom she longed ;  
Ay, and she wished, albeit not from her heart,  
That he would leave her turret and depart.  
The mirthful god of amorous pleasure smiled  
To see how he this captive nymph beguiled ;  
For hitherto he did but fan the fire,  
And kept it down, that it might mount the  
higher.  
Now waxed she jealous, lest his love abated,  
Fearing, her own thoughts made her to be hated.  
Therefore unto him hastily she goes,  
And, like light Salmacis, her body throws  
Upon his bosom, where with yielding eyes  
She offers up herself a sacrifice  
To slake his anger, if he were displeas'd ;  
Oh, what God would not therewith be appeas'd ?

Like Æsop's cock, this jewel he enjoyed,  
 And as a brother with his sister toyed,  
 Supposing nothing else was to be done,  
 Now he her favour and goodwill had won.  
 But know you not that creatures wanting sense,  
 By nature have a mutual appetite,  
 And, wanting organs to advance a step,  
 Moved by love's force, unto each other leap?  
 Much more in subjects having intellect  
 Some hidden influence breeds like effect.  
 Albeit Leander, rude in love and raw,  
 Long dallying with Hero, nothing saw  
 That might delight him more, yet he suspected  
 Some amorous rites or other were neglected.  
 Therefore unto his body hers he clung :  
 She, fearing on the rushes to be flung,  
 Strived with redoubled strength ; the more she  
 strived,  
 The more a gentle pleasing heat revived,  
 Which taught him all that elder lovers know :  
 And now the same 'gan so to scorch and glow,  
 As in plain terms, yet cunningly, he crave it :  
 Love always makes those eloquent that have it.  
 She, with a kind of granting, put him by it,  
 And ever, as he thought himself most nigh it,  
 Like to the tree of Tantalus, she fled,  
 And, seeming lavish, saved her maidenhead.  
 Ne'er king more sought to keep his diadem,

Leander  
headlong  
cleaves  
enamoured  
deeps



Than Hero this inestimable gem :  
Above our life we love a steadfast friend ;  
Yet when a token of great worth we send,  
We often kiss it, often look thereon,  
And stay the messenger that would be gone ;  
No marvel, then, though Hero would not yield  
So soon to part from that she dearly held :  
Jewels being lost are found again ; this never ;

'Tis lost but once, and once lost, lost for ever.

Now had the morn espied her lover's steeds ;  
Whereat she starts, puts on her purple weeds,  
And, red for anger that he stayed so long,  
All headlong throws herself the clouds among,  
And now Leander, fearing to be missed,  
Embraced her suddenly, took leave, and kissed :  
Long was he taking leave, and loth to go,  
And kissed again, as lovers use to do.  
Sad Hero wrung him by the hand, and wept,  
Saying, " Let your vows and promises be kept ! "  
Then standing at the door, she turned about,  
As loth to see Leander going out.  
And now the sun, that through the horizon peeps,  
As pitying these lovers, downward creeps ;  
So that in silence of the cloudy night,  
Though it was morning, did he take his flight.  
But what the secret trusty night concealed,  
Leander's amorous habit soon revealed :  
With Cupid's myrtle was his bonnet crowned,  
About his arms the purple riband wound,  
Wherewith she wreathed her largely-spreading  
hair ;  
Nor could the youth abstain, but he must wear  
The sacred ring wherewith she was endowed,  
When first religious chastity she vowed ;  
Which made his love through Sestos to be known,  
And thence unto Abydos sooner blown

Than he could sail ; for incorporeal Fame,  
Whose weight consists in nothing but her name,  
Is swifter than the wind, whose tardy plumes  
Are reeking water and dull earthly fumes.

Home when he came, he seemed not to be  
there,  
But, like exilèd heir thrust from his sphere,  
Set in a foreign place ; and straight from thence,  
Alcides-like, by mighty violence,  
He would have chased away the swelling main,  
That him from her unjustly did detain.  
Like as the sun in a diameter  
Fires and inflames objects removèd far,  
And heateth kindly, shining laterally ;  
So beauty sweetly quickens when 'tis nigh,  
But being separated and removed,  
Burns where it cherished, murders where it loved.  
Therefore even as an index to a book,  
So to his mind was young Leander's look.  
Oh, none but gods have power their love to hide !  
Affection by the countenance is descried ;  
The light of hidden fire itself discovers,  
And love that is concealed betrays poor lovers.  
His secret flame apparently was seen :  
Leander's father knew where he had been,  
And for the same mildly rebuked his son,  
Thinking to quench the sparkles new-begun.  
But love resisted once, grows passionate,

And nothing more than counsel lovers hate ;  
For as a hot proud horse highly disdains  
To have his head controlled, but breaks the reins,  
Spits forth the ringled bit, and with his hoves  
Checks the submissive ground ; so he that loves,  
The more he is restrained, the worse he fares :  
What is it now but mad Leander dares ?  
“ Oh, Hero, Hero ! ” thus he cried full oft ;  
And then he got him to a rock aloft,  
Where having spied her tower, long stared he on't,  
And prayed the narrow toiling Hellespont  
To part in twain, that he might come and go ;  
But still the rising billows answered, “ No.”  
With that he stripped him to the ivory skin,  
And, crying, “ Love, I come,” leaped lively in :  
Whereat the sapphire-visaged god grew proud,  
And made his capering Triton sound aloud,  
Imagining that Ganymede, displeased,  
Had left the heavens ; therefore on him he seized.  
Leander strived ; the waves about him wound,  
And pulled him to the bottom, where the ground  
Was strewed with pearl, and in low coral groves  
Sweet-singing mermaids sported with their loves  
On heaps of heavy gold, and took great pleasure  
To spurn in careless sort the shipwrackt treasure ;  
For here the stately azure palace stood,  
Where kingly Neptune and his train abode.  
The lusty god embraced him, called him “ love,”



And swore he never should return to Jove :  
But when he knew it was not Ganymed,  
For under water he was almost dead,  
He heaved him up, and, looking on his face,  
Beat down the bold waves with his triple mace,  
Which mounted up, intending to have kissed him,  
And fell in drops like tears because they missed  
him.

Leander, being up, began to swim,  
And, looking back, saw Neptune follow him :  
Whereat aghast, the poor soul 'gan to cry,  
"Oh, let me visit Hero ere I die !"

The god put Helle's bracelet on his arm,  
And swore the sea should never do him harm.  
He clapped his plump cheeks, with his tresses  
played,

And, smiling wantonly, his love bewrayed ;  
He watched his arms, and, as they opened wide  
At every stroke, betwixt them would he slide,  
And steal a kiss, and then run out and dance,  
And, as he turned, cast many a lustful glance,  
And threw him gaudy toys to please his eye,  
And dive into the water, and there pry  
Upon his breast, his thighs, and every limb,  
And up again, and close beside him swim,  
And talk of love. Leander made reply,  
"You are deceived ; I am no woman, I."

Thereat smiled Neptune, and then told a tale,

How that a shepherd, sitting in a vale,  
 Played with a boy so lovely fair and kind,  
 As for his love both earth and heaven pined ;  
 That of the cooling river durst not drink,  
 Lest water-nymphs should pull him from the  
 brink ;  
 And when he sported in the fragrant lawns,  
 Goat-footed Satyrs and upstaring Fauns  
 Would steal him thence. Ere half this tale was  
 done,  
 " Ah me," Leander cried, " th' enamoured sun,  
 That now should shine on Thetis' glassy bower,  
 Descends upon my radiant Hero's tower :  
 Oh, that these tardy arms of mine were wings !"  
 And, as he spake, upon the waves he springs.  
 Neptune was angry that he gave no ear,  
 And in his heart revenging malice bare :  
 He flung at him his mace ; but, as it went,  
 He called it in, for love made him repent :  
 The mace, returning back, his own hand hit,  
 As meaning to be 'venged for darting it.  
 When this fresh-bleeding wound Leander viewed,  
 His colour went and came, as if he rued  
 The grief which Neptune felt : in gentle breasts  
 Relenting thoughts, remorse and pity rests ;  
 And who have hard hearts and obdurate minds,  
 But vicious, hare-brained, and illiterate hinds ?  
 The god, seeing him with pity to be moved,

Thereon concluded that he was beloved ;  
(Love is too full of faith, too credulous,  
With folly and false hope deluding us ;)  
Wherefore, Leander's fancy to surprise,  
To the rich ocean for gifts he flies :  
'Tis wisdom to give much ; a gift prevails  
When deep-persuading oratory fails.

By this, Leander, being near the land,  
Cast down his weary feet, and felt the sand.  
Breathless albeit he were, he rested not  
Till to the solitary tower he got ;  
And knocked, and called : at which celestial noise  
The longing heart of Hero much more joys,  
Than nymphs and shepherds when the timbrel  
rings,  
Or crookèd dolphin when the sailor sings,  
She stayed not for her robes, but straight arose,  
And drunk with gladness, to the door she goes ;  
Where seeing a naked man, she screeched for fear,  
(Such sights as this to tender maids are rare,)  
And ran into the dark herself to hide :  
(Rich jewels in the dark are soonest spied :)  
Unto her was he led, or rather drawn,  
By those white limbs which sparkled through the  
lawn.

The nearer that he came, the more she fled,  
And, seeking refuge, slipt into her bed ;  
Whereon Leander sitting, thus began,

Through numbing cold, all feeble, faint, and wan,  
“ If not for love, yet, love, for pity-sake,  
Me in thy bed and maiden bosom take ;  
At least vouchsafe these arms some little room,  
Who, hoping to embrace thee, cheerly swoom :  
This head was beat with many a churlish billow,  
And therefore let it rest upon thy pillow.”  
Herewith affrighted, Hero shrunk away,  
And in her lukewarm place Leander lay ;  
Whose lively heat, like fire from heaven fet,  
Would animate gross clay, and higher set  
The drooping thoughts of base-declining souls,  
Than dreary-Mars-carousing nectar bowls.  
His hands he cast upon her like a snare :  
She, overcome with shame and sallow fear  
Like chaste Diana when Actæon spied her,  
Being suddenly betrayed, dived down to hide her  
And, as her silver body downward went,  
With both her hands she made the bed a tent,  
And in her own mind thought herself secure  
O’ercast with dim and darksome coverture.  
And now she lets him whisper in her ear.  
Flatter, entreat, promise, protest, and swear :  
Yet ever, as he greedily assayed  
To touch those dainties, she the harpy played,  
And every limb did, as a soldier stout,  
Defend the fort, and keep the foeman out ;  
For though the rising ivory mount he scaled,

Which is with azure circling lines empaled,  
Much like a globe, (a globe may I term this,  
By which Love sails to regions full of bliss ?)  
Yet there with Sisyphus he toiled in vain,  
Till gentle parley did the truce obtain.  
Even as a bird, which in our hands we wring,  
Forth plungeth, and oft flutters with her wing,  
She trembling strove ; this strife of hers, like that  
Which made the world, another world begat  
Of unknown joy. Treason was in her thought,  
And cunningly to yield herself she sought.  
Seeming not won, yet won she was at length :  
In such wars women use but half their strength.  
Leander now, like Theban Hercules,  
Entered the orchard of th' Hesperides ;  
Whose fruit none rightly can describe, but he  
That pulls or shakes it from the golden tree.  
Wherein Leander on her quivering breast,  
Breathless spoke something, and sighed out the  
rest ;  
Which so prevailed, as he, with small ado,  
Enclosed her in his arms, and kissed her too ;  
And every kiss to her was as a charm,  
And to Leander as a fresh alarm :  
So that the truce was broke, and she, alas,  
Poor silly maiden, at his mercy was !  
Love is not full of pity, as men say,  
But deaf and cruel where he means to pray.

And now she wished this night were never done,  
And sighed to think upon th' approaching sun ;  
For much it grieved her that the bright daylight  
Should know the pleasure of this blessed night,  
And them, like Mars and Erycine, display  
Both in each other's arms chained as they lay.  
Again, she knew not how to frame her look,  
Or speak to him, who in a moment took  
That which so long, so charily she kept ;  
And fain by stealth away she would have crept,  
And to some corner secretly have gone,  
Leaving Leander in the bed alone.  
But as her naked feet were whipping out,  
He on the sudden clinged her so about,  
That, mermaid-like, unto the floor she slid ;  
One half appeared, the other half was hid.  
Thus near the bed she blushing stood upright,  
And from her countenance behold ye might  
A kind of twilight break, which through the air,  
As from an orient cloud, glimpsed here and there ;  
And round about the chamber this false morn  
Brought forth the day before the day was born.  
So Hero's ruddy cheek Hero betrayed,  
And her all naked to his sight displayed :  
Whence his admiring eyes more pleasure took  
Than Dis, on heaps of gold fixing his look.  
By this, Apollo's golden harp began  
To sound forth music to the ocean ;

Which watchful Hesperus no sooner heard,  
But he the bright Day-bearing car prepared,  
And ran before, as harbinger of light,  
And with his flaring beams mocked ugly Night,  
Till she, o'ercome with anguish, shame, and rage  
Danged down to hell her loathsome carriage.  
**HERE MARLOWE'S WORK CEASES  
AND CHAPMAN'S BEGINS.**

THE ARGUMENT OF THE  
THIRD SESTIAD.

Leander to the envious light  
Resigns his night-sports with the night,  
And swims the Hellespont again.  
Thesme, the deity sovereign  
Of customs and religious rites,  
Appears, reproving his delights,  
Since nuptial honours he neglected ;  
Which straight he vows shall be effected.  
Fair Hero, left devirginate,  
Weighs, and with fury wails her state :  
But with her love and woman's wit  
She argues and approveth it.





NEW light gives new directions,  
fortunes new,  
To fashion our endeavours that  
ensue.

More harsh, at least more hard,  
more grave and high  
Our subject runs, and our stern

Muse must fly.

Love's edge is taken off, and that light flame.  
Those thoughts, joys, longings, that before became  
High unexperienced blood, and maids' sharp  
plights

Must now grow staid, and censure the delights,  
That, being enjoyed, ask judgment ; now we  
praise,

As having parted : evenings crown the days.

And now, ye wanton Loves, and young Desires,  
Pied Vanity, the mint of strange attires,  
Ye lispng Flatteries, and obsequious Glances,  
Relentful Musics, and attractive Dances,  
And you detested Charms constraining love !  
Shun love's stolen sports by that these lovers  
prove.

By this, the sovereign of heaven's golden fires,  
And young Leander, lord of his desires,  
Together from their lovers' arms arose :  
Leander into Hellespontus throws  
His Hero-handled body, whose delight

Made him disdain each other epithite.  
 And as amidst th' enamoured waves he swims,  
 The god of gold of purpose gilt his limbs,  
 That, this word gilt including double sense,  
 The double guilt of his incontinence  
 Might be expressed, that had no stay t' employ  
 The treasure which the love-god let him joy  
 In his dear Hero, with such sacred thrift  
 As had beseeemed so sanctified a gift ;  
 But, like a greedy vulgar prodigal,  
 Would on the stock dispend, and rudely fall,  
 Before his time, to that unblest blessing,  
 Which, for lust's plague, doth perish with  
 possessing ?  
 Joy graven in sense, like snow in water, wastes ;  
 Without preserve of virtue, nothing lasts.  
 What man is he, that with a wealthy eye  
 Enjoys a beauty richer than the sky,  
 Through whose white skin, softer than soundest  
 sleep,  
 With damask eyes the ruby blood doth peep,  
 And runs in branches through her azure veins,  
 Whose mixture and first fire his love attains ;  
 Whose both hands limit both love's deities,  
 And sweeten human thoughts like Paradise ;  
 Whose disposition silken is and kind,  
 Directed with an earth-exempted mind ;—  
 Who thinks not heaven with such a love is given ?

And who, like earth, would spend that dower of  
heaven,

With rank desire to joy it all at first ?

What simply kills our hunger, quencheth thirst,

Clothes but our nakedness, and makes us live,

Praise doth not any of her favours give :

But what doth plentifully minister

Beauteous apparel and delicious cheer,

So ordered that it still excites desire,

And still gives pleasure freeness to aspire,

The palm of Bounty ever most preserving ;

To Love's sweet life this is the courtly carving.

Thus Time and all-states-ordering Ceremony

Had banished all offence : Time's golden thigh

Upholds the flowery body of the earth .

In sacred harmony, and every birth

Of men and actions makes legitimate ;

Being used aright, the use of time is fate.

Yet did the gentle flood transfer once more

This prize of love home to his father's shore ;

Where he unlades himself of that false wealth

That makes few rich,—treasures composed by

stealth ;

And to his sister, kind Hermione,

(Who on the shore kneeled, praying to the sea

For his return,) he all love's goods did show,

In Hero seized for him, in him for Hero.

His most kind sister all his secrets knew,

And to her, singing, like a shower, he flew,  
Sprinkling the earth, that to their tombs took in  
Streams dead for love, to leave his ivory skin,  
Which yet a snowy foam did leave above,  
As soul to the dead water that did love ;  
And from thence did the first white roses spring  
(For love is sweet and fair in every thing),  
And all the sweetened shore, as he did go,  
Was crowned with odorous roses, white as snow.  
Love-blest Leander was with love so filled,  
That love to all that touched him he instilled,  
And as the colours of all things we see,  
To our sight's powers communicated be,  
So to all objects that in compass came  
Of any sense he had, his senses' flame  
Flowed from his parts with force so virtual,  
It fired with sense things mere insensual,

Now, with warm baths and odours comforted,  
When he lay down, he kindly kissed his bed,  
As consecrating it to Hero's right,  
And vowed thereafter, that whatever sight  
Put him in mind of Hero or her bliss,  
Should be her altar to prefer a kiss.

Then laid he forth his late-enrichèd arms,  
In whose white circle Love writ all his charms,  
And made his characters sweet Hero's limbs,  
When on his breast's warm sea she sideling swims :  
And as those arms, held up in circle, met,

Love  
Secrecy  
and Wit  
with Hero  
plot



He said, "See, sister, Hero's carcanet !  
Which she had rather wear about her neck,  
Than all the jewels that do Juno deck."

But, as he shook with passionate desire  
To put in flame his other secret fire,  
A music so divine did pierce his ear,  
As never yet his ravished sense did hear ;  
When suddenly a light of twenty hues

Brake through the roof, and, like the rainbow,  
views

Amazed Leander : in whose beams came down  
The goddess Ceremony, with a crown  
Of all the stars ; and Heaven with her descended :  
Her flaming hair to her bright feet extended,  
By which hung all the bench of deities ;  
And in a chain, compact of ears and eyes,  
She led Religion : all her body was  
Clear and transparent as the purest glass,  
For she was all presented to the sense :  
Devotion, Order, State, and Reverence,  
Her shadows were ; Society, Memory ;  
All which her sight made live, her absence die.  
A rich disparent pentacle she wears,  
Drawn full of circles and strange characters.  
Her face was changeable to every eye ;  
One way looked ill, another graciously ;  
Which while men viewed, they cheerful were and  
holy,  
But looking off, vicious and melancholy.  
The snaky paths to each observèd law  
Did Policy in her broad bosom draw.  
One hand a mathematic crystal sways,  
Which, gathering in one line a thousand rays  
From her bright eyes, Confusion burns to death,  
And all estates of men distinguisheth :  
By it Morality and Comeliness

Themselves in all their sightly figures dress.  
Her other hand a laurel rod applies,  
To beat back Barbarism and Avarice,  
That followed, eating earth and excrement  
And human limbs; and would make proud ascent  
To seats of gods, were Ceremony slain.  
The Hours and Graces bore her glorious train;  
And all the sweets of our society  
Were sphered and treasured in her bounteous eye.  
Thus she appeared, and sharply did reprove  
Leander's bluntness in his violent love;  
Told him how poor was substance without rites,  
Like bills unsigned; desires without delights;  
Like meats unseasoned; like rank corn that  
grows  
On cottages, that none or reaps or sows;  
Not being with civil forms confirmed and  
bounded,  
For human dignities and comforts founded;  
But loose and secret all their glories hide;  
Fear fills the chamber, Darkness decks the bride;  
She vanished, leaving pierced Leander's heart  
With sense of his unceremonious part,  
In which, with plain neglect of nuptial rites,  
He close and flatly fell to his delights:  
And instantly he vowed to celebrate  
All rites pertaining to his married state.  
So up he gets, and to his father goes,

To whose glad ears he doth his vows disclose.  
 The nuptials are resolved with utmost power ;  
 And he at night would swim to Hero's tower,  
 From whence he meant to Sestos' forkèd bay  
 To bring her covertly, where ships must stay,  
 Sent by his father, throughly rigged and manned,  
 To waft her safely to Abydos' strand.  
 There leave we him ; and with fresh wings pursue  
 Astonished Hero, whose most wishèd view  
 I thus long have forborne, because I left her  
 So out of countenance, and her spirits bereft her :  
 To look on one abashed is impudence,  
 When of slight faults he hath too deep a sense.  
 Her blushing lit her chamber : she looked out,  
 And all the air she purpled round about ;  
 And after it a foul black day befell,  
 Which ever since a red morn doth foretell,  
 And still renews our woes for Hero's woe ;  
 And foul it proved, because it figured so  
 The next night's horror ; which prepare to hear ;  
 I fail, if it profane your dantiest ear.

Then, now, most strangely-intellectual fire,  
 That, proper to my soul, hast power t'inspire  
 Her burning faculties, and with the wings  
 Of thy unspherèd flame visit'st the springs  
 Of spirits immortal ! Now, (as swift as Time  
 Doth follow Motion) find th' eternal clime  
 Of his free soul, whose living subject stood



Up to the chin in the Pierian flood,  
And drunk to me half this Musæan story,  
Inscribing it to deathless memory :  
Confer with it, and make my pledge as deep,  
That neither's draught be consecrate to sleep ;  
Tell it how much his late desires I tender  
(If yet it know not), and to light surrender  
My soul's dark offspring, willing it should die  
To loves, to passions, and society.

Sweet Hero, left upon her bed alone,  
Her maidenhead, her vows, -Leander gone,  
And nothing with her but a violent crew  
Of new-come thoughts, that yet she never knew,  
Even to herself a stranger, was much like  
Th' Iberian city that War's hand did strike  
By English force in princely Essex' guide,  
When Peace assured her towers had fortified,  
And golden-fingered India had bestowed  
Such wealth on her, that strength and empire  
flowed  
Into her turrets, and her virgin waist  
The wealthy girdle of the sea embraced ;  
Till our Leander, that made Mars his Cupid,  
For soft love suits, with iron thunders chid ;  
Swum to her town, dissolved her virgin zone ;  
Led in his power, and made Confusion  
Run through her streets amazed, that she supposed  
She had not been in her own walls enclosed

But rapt by wonder to some foreign state  
Seeing all her issue so disconsolate,  
And all her peaceful mansions possessed  
With war's just spoil, and many a foreign guest  
From every corner driving an enjoyer,  
Supplying it with power of a destroyer.  
So fared fair Hero in th' expugnèd fort  
Of her chaste bosom ; and of every sort  
Strange thoughts possessed her, ransacking her  
breast

For that that was not there, her wonted rest.  
She was a mother straight, and bore with pain  
Thoughts that spake straight, and wished their  
mother slain ;  
She hates their lives, and they their own and hers :  
Such strife still grows where sin the race prefers :  
Love is a golden bubble, full of dreams,  
That waking breaks, and fills us with extremes.  
She mused how she could look upon her sire,  
And not show that without, that was intire ;  
For as a glass is an inanimate eye,  
And outward forms embraceth inwardly,  
So is the eye an animate glass, that shows  
In-forms without us ; and as Phœbus throws  
His beams abroad, though he in clouds be closed,  
Still glancing by them till he find opposed  
A loose and rorid vapour that is fit  
T' event his searching beams, and useth it

To form a tender twenty-coloured eye,  
Cast in a circle round about the sky ;  
So when our fiery soul, our body's star,  
(That ever is in motion circular,)  
Conceives a form, in seeking to display it  
Through all our cloudy parts, it doth convey it  
Forth at the eye, as the most pregnant place,  
And that reflects it round about the face.  
And this event, uncourtly Hero thought,  
Her inward guilt would in her looks have  
wrought ;  
For yet the world's stale cunning she resisted,  
To bear foul thoughts, yet forge what looks she  
listed,  
And held it for a very silly sleight,  
To make a perfect metal counterfeit,  
Glad to disclaim herself, proud of an art  
That makes the face a pander to the heart.  
Those be the painted moons, whose lights profane  
Beauty's true heaven, at full still in their wane ;  
Those be the lapwing faces that still cry,  
" Here 'tis ! " when that they vow is nothing  
nigh :  
Base fools ! when every moorish fool can teach  
That which men think the height of human reach,  
But custom, that the apoplexy is  
Of bed-rid nature and lives led amiss,  
And takes away all feeling of offence,

Yet brazed not Hero's brow with impudence ;  
And this she thought most hard to bring to pass,  
To seem in countenance other than she was,  
As if she had two souls, one for the face,  
One for the heart, and that they shifted place  
As either list to utter or conceal  
What they conceived, or as one soul did deal  
With both affairs at once, keeps and ejects  
Both at an instant contrary effects ;  
Retention and ejection in her powers  
Being acts alike ; for this one vice of ours,  
That forms the thought, and sways the counte-  
nance,  
Rules both our motion and our utterance.

These and more grave conceits toiled Hero's  
spirits ;  
For, though the light of her discursive wits  
Perhaps might find some little hole to pass  
Through all these worldly cinctures, yet, alas !  
There was a heavenly flame encompassed her,—  
Her goddess, in whose fane she did prefer  
Her virgin vows, from whose impulsive sight  
She knew the black shield of the darkest night  
Could not defend her, nor wit's subtlest art :  
This was the point pierced Hero to the heart ;  
Who, heavy to the death, with a deep sigh,  
And hand that languished, took a robe was nigh,  
Exceeding large, and of black cypres made,

In which she sate, hid from the day in shade,  
Even over head and face, down to her feet ;  
Her left hand made it at her bosom meet,  
Her right hand leaned on her heart-bowing knee,  
Wrapped in unshapeful folds, 'twas death to see ;  
Her knee stayed that, and that her falling face,  
Each limb helped other to put on disgrace :  
No form was seen, where form held all her sight ;  
But, like an embryon that saw never light,  
Or like a scorched statue made a coal  
With three-winged lightning, or a wretched soul  
Muffled with endless darkness, she did sit :  
The night had never such a heavy spirit.  
Yet might a penetrating eye well see  
How fast her clear tears melted on her knee  
Through her black veil, and turned as black as it,  
Mourning to be her tears. Then wrought her wit  
With her broke vow, her goddess' wrath, her  
fame,—  
All tools that enginous despair could frame :  
Which made her strow the floor with her torn  
hair,  
And spread her mantle piecemeal in the air.  
Like Jove's son's club, strong passion strook her  
down,  
And with a piteous shriek enforced her swoun :  
Her shriek made with another shriek ascend  
The frightened matron that on her did tend ;

And as with her own cry her sense was slain,  
So with the other it was called again.  
She rose, and to her bed made forcèd way,  
And laid her down even where Leander lay;  
And all this while the red sea of her blood  
Ebbèd with Leander : but now turned the flood,  
And all her fleet of spirits came swelling in,  
With child of sail, and did hot fight begin  
With those severe conceits she too much marked :  
And here Leander's beauties were embarked.  
He came in swimming, painted all with joys,  
Such as might sweeten hell ; his thought destroys  
All her destroying thoughts ! she thought she felt  
His heart in hers, with her contentions melt,  
And chide her soul that it could so much err,  
To check the the true joys he deserved in her.  
Her fresh-heat blood cast figures in her eyes,  
And she supposed she saw in Neptune's skies,  
How her star wandered, washed in smarting brine,  
For her love's sake, that with immortal wine  
Should be embathed, and swim in more hearts-ease  
Than there was water in the Sestian seas.  
Then said her Cupid-prompted spirit : " Shall I  
Sing moans to such delightful harmony ?  
Shall slick-tongued Fame, patched up with voices  
rude,  
The drunken bastard of the multitude,  
(Begot when father Judgment is away,

And, gossip-like, says because others say,  
Takes news as if it were too hot to eat,  
And spits it slavering forth for dog-fee's meat,)  
Make me, for forging a fantastic vow,  
Presume to bear what makes grave matrons bow ?  
Good vows are never broken with good deeds,  
For then good deeds were bad : vows are but  
seeds,  
And good deeds fruits ; even those good deeds  
that grow  
From other stocks than from th' observèd vow.  
That is a good deed that prevents a bad :  
Had I not yielded, slain myself I had.  
Hero Leander is, Leander Hero ;  
Such virtue love hath to make one of two.  
If, then, Leander did my maidenhead git,  
Leander being myself, I still retain it :  
We break chaste vows when we live loosely ever,  
But bound as we are, we live loosely never :  
Two constant lovers being joined in one,  
Yielding to one another, yield to none.  
We know not how to vow, till love unblind us,  
And vows made ignorantly never bind us.  
Too true it is, that, when 'tis gone, men hate  
The joy as vain they took in love's estate :  
But that's since they have lost the heavenly light  
Should show them way to judge of all things  
right.

When life is gone, death must implant his terror :  
As death is foe to life, so love to error.  
Before we love, how range we through this sphere,  
Searching the sundry fancies hunted here !  
Now with desire of wealth transported quite  
Beyond our free humanity's delight ;  
Now with Ambition climbing falling towers,  
Whose hope to scale, our fear to fall devours ;  
Now wrapt with pastimes, pomp, all joys impure :  
In things without us no delight is sure.  
But love, with all joys crowned, within doth sit :  
Oh, goddess, pity love, and pardon it ! ”  
Thus spake she weeping : but her goddess' ear  
Burned with too stern a heat, and would not hear.  
Ah me ! hath heaven's straight fingers no more  
graces  
For such as Hero than for homeliest faces ?  
Yet she hoped well, and in her sweet conceit  
Weighing her arguments, she thought them weight,  
And that the logic of Leander's beauty,  
And them together, would bring proofs of duty ;  
And if her soul, that was a skilful glance  
Of heaven's great essence, found such imperance  
In her love's beauties, she had confidence  
Jove loved him too, and pardoned her offence :  
Beauty in heaven and earth this grace doth win,  
It supples rigour, and it lessens sin.  
Thus, her sharp wit, her love, her secrecy,



Trooping together, made her wonder why  
She should not leave her bed, and to the temple;  
Her health said she must live; her sex, dissemble.  
She viewed Leander's place, and wished he were  
Turned to his place, so his place were Leander.  
"Ah me," said she, "that love's sweet life and  
sense  
Should do it harm! my love had not gone hence,  
Had he been like his place: oh, blessed place,  
Image of constancy! Thus my love's grace  
Parts no where, but it leaves something behind  
Worth observation: he renowns his kind:  
His motion is, like heaven's, orbicular,  
For where he once is, he is ever there.  
This place was mine; Leander, now 'tis thine;  
Thou being myself, then it is double mine,  
Mine, and Leander's mine, Leander's mine.  
Oh, see what wealth it yields me, nay, yields him!  
For I am in it, he for me doth swim,  
Rich, fruitful love, that, doubling self estates,  
Elixir-like contracts, though separates!  
Dear place, I kiss thee, and do welcome thee,  
As from Leander ever sent to me."

THE ARGUMENT OF THE FOURTH  
SESTIAD.

Hero, in sacred habit deckt,  
Doth private sacrifice effect.  
Her scarf's description, wrought by Fate;  
Ostents that threaten her estate;  
The strange, yet physical, events,  
Leander's counterfeit presents,  
In thunder Cyprides descends,  
Presaging both the lovers' ends;  
Ecte, the goddess of remorse,  
With vocal and articulate force  
Inspires Leucote, Venus' swan,  
T' excuse the beauteous Sestian.  
Venus, to wreak her rites' abuses,  
Creates the monster Eronusis,  
Inflaming Hero's sacrifice.  
With lightning darted from her eyes;  
And thereof springs the painted beast,  
That ever since taints every breast.



OW from Leander's place she  
rose, and found  
Her hair and rent robe scattered  
on the ground ;  
Which taking up, she every piece  
did lay  
Upon an altar, where in youth of  
She used t' exhibit private sacrifice : [day  
Those would she offer to the deities  
Of her fair goddess and her powerful son,  
As relics of her late-felt passion ;  
And in that holy sort she vowed to end them,  
In hope her violent fancies, that did rend them,  
Would as quite fade in her love's holy fire,  
As they should in the flames she meant t' inspire,  
Then put she on all her religious weeds,  
That decked her in her secret sacred deeds ;  
A crown of icicles, that sun nor fire  
Could ever melt, and figured chaste desire ;  
A golden star shined on her naked breast,  
In honour of the queen-light of the east.  
In her right hand she held a silver wand,  
On whose bright top Peristera did stand,  
Who was a nymph, but now transformed a dove,  
And in her life was dear in Venus' love ;  
And for her sake she ever since that time  
Choused doves to draw her coach through heaven's  
blue clime.

Her plenteous hair in curlèd billows swims  
On her bright shoulder: her harmonious limbs  
Sustained no more but a most subtile veil,  
That hung on them, as it durst not assail  
Their different concord; for the weakest air  
Could raise it swelling from her beauties fair;  
Nor did it cover, but adumbrate only  
Her most heart-piercing parts, that a blest eye  
Might see, as it did shadow, fearfully,  
All that all-love-deserving paradise:  
It was as blue as the most freezing skies;  
Near the sea's hue, for thence her goddess came:  
On it a scarf she wore of wondrous frame;  
In midst whereof she wrought a virgin's face,  
From whose each cheek a fiery blush did chase  
Two crimson flames, that did two ways extend,  
Spreading the ample scarf to either end;  
Which figured the division of her mind,  
Whiles yet she rested bashfully inclined,  
And stood not resolute to wed Leander;  
This served her white neck for a purple sphere,  
And cast itself at full breadth down her back:  
There, since the first breadth that begun the wrack  
Of her free quiet from Leander's lips,  
She wrought a sea, in one flame, full of ships;  
But that one ship where all her wealth did pass,  
Like simple merchants' goods, Leander was;  
For in that sea she naked figured him;

Of  
Venus'  
flight  
from  
spiteful  
Dian's  
gibes.



Her diving needle taught him how to swim,  
And to each thread did such resemblance give,  
For joy to be so like him it did live:  
Things senseless live by art, and rational die  
By rude contempt of art and industry.  
Scarce could she work, but, in her strength of  
thought

She feared she pricked Leander as she wrought,

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And

And oft would shriek so, that her guardian,  
frighted,  
Would staring haste, as with some mischief cited :  
They double life that dead things' grief sustain ;  
They kill that feel not their friend's living pain.  
Sometimes she feared he sought her infamy ;  
And then, as she was working of his eye,  
She thought to prick it out to quench her ill ;  
But, as she pricked, it grew more perfect still :  
Trifling attempts no serious acts advance ;  
The fire of love is blown by dalliance.  
In working his fair neck she did so grace it,  
She still was working her own arms t' embrace it :  
That, and his shoulders, and his hands were seen  
Above the stream ; and with a pure sea-green  
She did so quaintly shadow every limb,  
All might be seen beneath the waves to swim.

In this conceited scarf she wrought beside  
A moon in change, and shooting stars did glide  
In number after her with bloody beams ;  
Which figured her affects in their extremes,  
Pursuing nature in her Cynthian body,  
And did her thoughts running on change imply ;  
For maids take more delight, when they prepare,  
And think of wives' states, than when wives they  
are.

Beneath all these she wrought a fisherman,  
Drawing his nets from forth that ocean ;

Who drew so hard, ye might discover well,  
The toughened sinews in his neck did swell:  
His inward strains drave out his bloodshot eyes,  
And springs of sweat did in his forehead rise;  
Yet was of nought but of a serpent sped,  
That in his bosom flew and stung him dead:  
And this by fate into her mind was sent,  
Not wrought by mere instinct of her intent.  
At the scarf's other end her hand did frame,  
Near the forked point of the divided flame,  
A country virgin keeping of a vine,  
Who did of hollow bulrushes combine  
Snares for the stubble-loving grasshopper,  
And by her lay her scrip that nourished her.  
Within a myrtle shade she sate and sung;  
And tufts of waving reeds about her sprung,  
Where lurked two foxes, that, while she applied  
Her trifling snares, their thieveries did divide,  
One to the vine, another to her scrip,  
That she did negligently overslip;  
By which her fruitful vine and wholesome fare  
She suffered spoiled, to make a childish snare,  
These ominous fancies did her soul express,  
And every finger made a prophetess,  
To show what death was hid in love's disguise,  
And make her judgment conquer Destinies.  
Oh, what sweet forms fair ladies' souls do shroud,  
Were they made seen and forcèd through their blood;

If through their beauties, like rich work through  
lawn,  
They would set forth their minds with virtues  
drawn,  
In letting graces from their fingers fly,  
To still their eyes thoughts with industry ;  
That their plied wits in numbered silks might sing  
Passion's huge conquest, and their needles leading  
Affection prisoner through their own-built cities,  
Pinioned with stories and Arachnean ditties.

Proceed we now with Hero's sacrifice :  
She odours burned, and from their smoke did rise  
Unsavoury fumes, that air with plagues inspired ;  
And then the consecrated sticks she fired,  
On whose pale flame an angry spirit flew,  
And beat it down still as it upward grew ;  
The virgin tapers that on th' altar stood,  
When she inflamed them, burned as red as blood ;  
All sad ostents of that too near success,  
That made such moving beauties motionless.  
Then Hero wept ; but her affrighted eyes  
She quickly wrested from the sacrifice,  
Shut them, and inwards for Leander looked,  
Searched her soft bosom, and from thence she  
plucked

His lovely picture : which when she had viewed,  
Her beauties were with all love's joys renewed ;  
The odours sweetened, and the fires burned clear,



Leander's form left no ill object there :  
Such was his beauty, that the force of light,  
Whose knowledge teacheth wonders infinite,  
The strength of number and proportion,  
Nature had placed in it to make it known,  
Art was her daughter, and what human wits  
For study lost, entombed in drossy spirits.  
After this accident, (which for her glory  
Hero could not but make a history,)  
Th' inhabitants of Sestos and Abydos  
Did every year, with feasts propitious,  
To fair Leander's picture sacrifice :  
And they were persons of especial price  
That were allowed it, as an ornament  
T' enrich their houses, for the continent  
Of the strange virtues all approved it held ;  
For even the very look of it repelled  
All blastings, witchcrafts, and the strifes of nature  
In those diseases that no herbs could cure :  
The wolfy sting of Avarice it would pull,  
And make the rankest miser bountiful ;  
It killed the fear of thunder and of death ;  
The discords that conceit engendereth  
'Twixt man and wife, it for the time would cease ;  
The flames of love it quenched, and would  
increase ;  
Held in a prince's hand, it would put out  
The dreadful'st comet ; it would ease all doubt

Of threatened mischiefs; it would bring asleep  
Such as were mad; it would enforce to weep  
Most barbarous eyes; and many more effects  
This picture wrought, and sprung Leandrian  
sects;  
Of which was Hero first; for he whose form,  
Held in her hand, cleared such a fatal storm,  
From hell she thought his person would defend  
her,  
Which night and Hellespont would quickly send  
her,  
With this confirmed, she vowed to banish quite  
All thought of any check to her delight;  
And, in contempt of silly bashfulness,  
She would the faith of her desires profess,  
Where her religion should be policy,  
To follow love with zeal her piety;  
Her chamber her cathedral church should be,  
And her Leander her chief deity;  
For in her love these did the gods forego;  
And though her knowledge did not teach her so,  
Yet did it teach her this, that what her heart  
Did greatest hold in her self-greatest part,  
That she did make her god; and 'twas less naught  
To leave gods in profession and in thought,  
Than in her love and life; for therein lies  
Most of her duties and their dignities;  
And, rail the brain-bald world at what it will,

That's the grand atheism that reigns in it still.  
Yet singularity she would use no more,  
For she was singular too much before ;  
But she would please the world with fair pretext ;  
Love would not leave her conscience perplex't :  
Great men that will have less do for them, still  
Must bear them out, though th' acts be ne'er  
so ill ;

Meanness must pander be to Excellence ;  
Pleasure atones Falsehood and Conscience :  
Dissembling was the worst, thought Hero then,  
And that was best, now she must live with men.  
O, virtuous love, that taught her to do best  
When she did worst, and when she thought it  
least !

Thus would she still proceed in works divine,  
And in her sacred state of priesthood shine,  
Handling the holy rites with hands as bold,  
As if therein she did Jove's thunder hold,  
And need not fear those menaces of error,  
Which she at others threw with greatest terror.  
Oh, lovely Hero, nothing is thy sin,  
Weighed with those foul faults other priests are  
in !

That having neither faiths, nor works, nor  
beauties,  
T' engender an excuse for slubbered duties,  
With as much countenance fill their holy chairs,

And sweat denouncements 'gainst profane affairs,  
As if their lives were cut out by their places,  
And they the only fathers of the graces.

Now, as with settled mind she did repair  
Her thoughts to sacrifice her ravished hair  
And her torn robe, which on the altar lay,  
And only for religion's fire did stay,  
She heard a thunder by the Cyclops beaten,  
In such a volley as the world did threaten,  
Given Venus as she parted th' airy sphere,  
Descending now to chide with Hero here:  
When suddenly the goddess' waggoners,  
The swans and turtles that, in coupled pheres,  
Through all worlds' bosoms draw her influence,  
Lighted in Hero's window, and from thence  
To her fair shoulders flew the gentle doves,—  
Graceful Ædone that sweet pleasure loves,  
And ruff-foot Chreste with the tufted crown;  
Both which did kiss her, though their goddess frown.  
The swans did in the solid flood, her glass,  
Proin their fair plumes; of which the fairest was  
Jove-loved Leucote, that pure brightness is;  
The other bounty-loving Dapsilis.  
All were in heaven, now they with Hero were:  
But Venus' looks brought wrath, and urgèd fear.  
Her robe was scarlet; black her head's attire;  
And through her naked breast shined streams of fire,

As when the rarefied air is driven  
In flashing streams, and opes the darkened heaven.  
In her white hand a wreath of yew she bore;  
And, breaking th' icy wreath sweet Hero wore,  
She forced about her brows her wreath of yew,  
And said, "Now, minion, to thy fate be true,  
Though not to me; endure what this portends!  
Begin where lightness will, in shame it ends.  
Love makes thee cunning; thou art current now  
By being counterfeit: thy broken vow  
Deceit with her pied garters must rejoin,  
And with her stamp thou countenances must coin;  
Coyness, and pure deceits, for purities,  
And still a maid wilt seem in cozened eyes,  
And have an antic face to laugh within,  
While thy smooth looks make men digest thy sin.  
But since thy lips (least thought forsworn)  
forswore,  
Be never virgin's vow worth trusting more!"

When Beauty's dearest did her goddess hear  
Breathe such rebukes 'gainst that she could not  
clear,  
Dumb sorrow spake aloud in tears and blood,  
That from her grief-burst veins, in piteous flood,  
From the sweet conduits of her favour fell.  
The gentle turtles did with moans make swell  
Their shining gorges; the white black-eyed swans  
Did sing as woeful epicedians,

As they would straightways die: when Pity's  
queen,  
The goddess Ecte, that had ever been  
Hid in a watery cloud near Hero's cries,  
Since the first instant of her broken eyes,  
Gave bright Leucote voice, and made her speak,  
To ease her anguish, whose swoln breast did break  
With anger at her goddess, that did touch  
Hero so near for that she used so much;  
And, thrusting her white neck at Venus, said:  
"Why may not amorous Hero seem a maid,  
Though she be none, as well as you suppress  
In modest cheeks your inward wantonness?  
How often have we drawn you from above,  
T' exchange with mortals rites for rites in love!  
Why in your priest, then, call you that offence,  
That shines in you, and is your influence?"  
With this, the Furies stopped Leucote's lips,  
Enjoined by Venus; who with rosy whips  
Beat the kind bird. Fierce lightning from her  
eyes

Did set on fire fair Hero's sacrifice,  
Which was her torn robe and enforcèd hair;  
And the bright flame became a maid most fair  
For her aspect: her tresses were of wire,  
Knit like a net, where hearts set all on fire,  
Struggled in pants, and could not get released;  
Her arms were all with golden pincers drest,

And twenty-fashioned knots, pulleys, and brakes,  
And all her body girt with painted snakes;  
Her down parts in a scorpion's tail combined,  
Freckled with twenty colours; pied wings shined  
Out of her shoulders; cloth had never dye,  
Nor sweeter colours never viewèd eye,  
In scorching Turkey, Cares, Tartary,  
Than shined about this spirit notorious;  
Nor was Arachne's web so glorious.  
Of lightning and of shreds she was begot;  
More hold in base dissemblers is there not.  
Her name was Eronusis. Venus flew  
From Hero's sight, and at her chariot drew  
This wondrous creature to so steep a height,  
That all the world she might command with  
sleight  
Of her gay wings; and then she bade her haste,—  
Since Hero had dissembled and disgraced  
Her rites so much,—and every breast infect  
With her deceits: she made her architect  
Of all dissimulation; and since then  
Never was any trust in maids or men.

Oh, it spited

Fair Venus' heart to see her most delighted,  
And one she choosed, for temper of her mind,  
To be the only ruler of her kind,  
So soon to let her virgin race be ended!  
Not simply for the fault a whit offended,

But that in strife for chasteness with the Moon,  
Spiteful Diana bade her show but one  
That was her servant vowed, and lived a maid;  
And, now she thought to answer that upbraid,  
Hero had lost her answer : who knows not  
Venus would seem as far from any spot  
Of light demeanour, as the very skin  
'Twixt Cynthia's brows? sin is ashamed of sin.  
Up Venus flew, and scarce durst up for fear  
Of Phœbe's laughter, when she passed her  
sphere :  
And so most ugly-clouded was the light,  
That day was hid in day ; night came ere night ;  
And Venus could not through the thick air  
pierce,  
Till the day's king, god of undaunted verse,  
Because she was so plentiful a theme  
To such as wore his laurel anademe,  
Like to a fiery bullet made descent,  
And from her passage those fat vapours rent,  
That, being not thoroughly rarefied to rain,  
Melted like pitch, as blue as any vein ;  
And scalding tempests made the earth to shrink  
Under their fervour, and the world did think  
In every drop a torturing spirit flew,  
It pierced so deeply, and it burned so blue.  
Betwixt all this and Hero, Hero held  
Leander's picture, as a Persian shield ;



And she was free from fear of worst success :  
The more ill threats us, we suspect the less :  
As we grow hapless, violence subtle grows,  
Dumb, deaf, and blind, and comes when no man  
knows.

THE ARGUMENT OF THE FIFTH  
SESTIAD.

Day doubles her accustomed date,  
As loth the Night, incensed by Fate,  
Should wreck our lovers. Hero's plight ;  
Longs for Leander and the night :  
Which ere her thirsty wish recovers,  
She sends for two betrothèd lovers,  
And marries them, that, with their crew,  
Their sports, and ceremonies due,  
She covertly might celebrate,  
With secret joy her own estate.  
She makes a feast, at which appears  
The wild nymph Teras, that still bears  
An ivory lute, tells ominous tales,  
And sings at solemn festivals.



NOW was bright Hero weary of  
the day,  
Thought an Olympiad in  
Leander's stay.  
Sol and the soft-foot Hours hung  
on his arms,  
And would not let him swim,  
foreseeing his harms :

That day Aurora double grace obtained  
Of her love Phœbus ; she his horses reined,  
Set on his golden knee, and, as she list,  
She pulled him back ; and, as she pulled, she  
kissed,  
To have him turn to bed : he loved her more,  
To see the love Leander Hero bore :  
Examples profit much ; ten times in one,  
In persons full of note, good deeds are done.

Day was so long, men walking fell asleep ;  
The heavy humours that their eyes did steep  
Made them fear mischiefs. The hard streets were  
beds

For covetous churls and for ambitious heads,  
That, spite of Nature, would their business ply :  
All thought they had the falling epilepsy,  
Men grovelled so upon the smothered ground ;  
And pity did the heart of Heaven confound.  
The Gods, the Graces, and the Muses came  
Down to the Destinies, to stay the frame

Of the true lovers' deaths, and all world's tears:  
But Death before had stopped their cruel ears.  
All the celestials parted mourning then,  
Pierced with our human miseries more than men:  
Ah, nothing doth the world with mischief fill,  
But want of feeling one another's ill!

With their descent the day grew something fair,  
And cast a brighter robe upon the air.  
Hero, to shorten time with merriment,  
For young Alcmane and bright Mya sent,  
Two lovers that had long craved marriage-dues  
At Hero's hands: but she did still refuse;  
For lovely Mya was her consort vowed  
In her maid state, and therefore not allowed  
To amorous nuptials: yet fair Hero now  
Intended to dispense with her cold vow,  
Since hers was broken, and to marry her:  
The rites would pleasing matter minister  
To her conceits, and shorten tedious day.  
They came; sweet Music ushered th' odorous way,  
And wanton Air in twenty sweet forms danced  
After her fingers; Beauty and Love advanced  
Their ensigns in the downless rosy faces  
Of youths and maids, led after by the Graces.  
For all these Hero made a friendly feast,  
Welcomed them kindly, did much love protest,  
Winning their hearts with all the means she  
might,



☞ Coyness  
and love  
strive  
which  
hath  
greater  
grace

That, when her fault should chance t' abide the  
light,  
Their loves might cover or extenuate it,  
And high in her worst fate make pity sit.

She married them; and in the banquet came,  
Borne by the virgins. Hero strived to frame  
Her thoughts to mirth: ah me! but hard it is  
To imitate a false and forcèd bliss;

Ill may a sad mind forge a merry face,  
Nor hath constrained laughter any grace.  
Then laid she wine on cares to make them sink :  
Who fears the threats of Fortune, let him drink.

To these quick nuptials entered suddenly  
Admirèd Teras with the ebon thigh ;  
A nymph that haunted the green Sestian groves,  
And would consort soft virgins in their loves,  
At gaysome triumphs and on solemn days,  
Singing prophetic elegies and lays,  
And fingering of a silver lute she tied  
With black and purple scarfs by her left side.  
Apollo gave it, and her skill withal,  
And she was termed his dwarf, she was so small :  
Yet great in virtue, for his beams enclosed  
His virtues in her ; never was proposed  
Riddle to her, or augury, strange or new,  
But she resolved it ; never slight tale flew  
From her charmed lips, without important sense,  
Shown in some grave succeeding consequence.

This little sylvan, with her songs and tales  
Gave such estate to feasts and nuptials,  
That though ofttimes she forwent tragedies,  
Yet for her strangeness still she pleased their eyes ;  
And for her smallness they admired her so,  
They thought her perfect born, and could not  
grow.

All eyes were on her. Hero did command

An altar decked with sacred state should stand  
At the feast's upper end, close by the bride,  
On which the pretty nymph might sit espied.  
Then all were silent; every one so hears,  
As all their senses climbed into their ears;  
And first this amorous tale, that fitted well  
Fair Hero and the nuptials, she did tell.

### THE TALE OF TERAS.

☞ Hymen, that now is god of nuptial rites,  
And crowns with honour Love and his delights,  
Of Athens was, a youth so sweet of face,  
That many thought him of the female race;  
Such quickening brightness did his clear eyes  
dart,  
Warm went their beams to his beholder's heart;  
In such pure leagues his beauties were combined,  
That there your nuptial contracts first were  
signed;  
For as proportion, white and crimson, meet  
In beauty's mixture, all right clear and sweet,  
The eye responsible, the golden hair,  
And none is held, without the other, fair;  
All spring together, all together fade;  
Such intermixed affections should invade  
Two perfect lovers; which being yet unseen,  
Their virtues and their comforts copied been  
In beauty's concord, subject to the eye;

And that, in Hymen, pleased so matchlessly,  
That lovers were esteemed in their full grace,  
Like form and colour mixed in Hymen's face;  
And such sweet concord was thought worthy then  
Of torches, music, feasts, and greatest men:  
So Hymen looked, that even the chastest mind  
He moved to join in joys of sacred kind;  
For only now his chin's first down consorted  
His head's rich fleece, in golden curls contorted;  
And as he was so loved, he loved so too:  
So should best beauties, bound by nuptials, do.

Bright Eucharis, who was by all men said  
The noblest, fairest, and the richest maid  
Of all th' Athenian damsels, Hymen loved  
With such transmission, that his heart removed  
From his white breast to hers: but her estate,  
In passing his, was so interminate  
For wealth and honour, that his love durst feed  
On nought but sight and hearing, nor could breed  
Hope of requital, the grand prize of love;  
Nor could he hear or see, but he must prove  
How his rare beauty's music would agree  
With maids in consort; therefore robbèd he  
His chin of those same few first fruits it bore,  
And, clad in such attire as virgins wore,  
He kept them company; and might right well,  
For he did all but Eucharis excel  
In all the fair of beauty: yet he wanted



Virtue to make his own desires implanted  
In his dear Eucharis; for women never  
Love beauty in their sex, but envy ever.  
His judgment yet, that durst not suit address,  
Nor, past due means, presume of due success,  
Reason gat Fortune in the end to speed  
To his best prayers: but strange it seemed,  
indeed,  
That Fortune should a chaste affection bless:  
Preferment seldom graceth bashfulness.  
Nor graced it Hymen yet; but many a dart,  
And many an amorous thought, enthralled his  
heart,  
Ere he obtained her; and he sick became,  
Forced to abstain her sight; and then the flame  
Raged in his bosom. Oh, what grief did fill him!  
Sight made him sick, and want of sight did kill  
him.

The virgins wondered where Diætia stayed,  
For so did Hymen term himself, a maid.  
At length with sickly looks he greeted them:  
'Tis strange to see 'gainst what an extreme stream  
A lover strives; poor Hymen looked so ill,  
That as in merit he increased still  
By suffering much, so he in grace decreased:  
Women are most won, when men merit least:  
If merit look not well, Love bids stand by;  
Love's special lesson is to please the eye.

And Hymen soon recovering all he lost,  
Deceiving still these maids, but himself most,  
His love and he with many virgin dames,  
Noble by birth, noble by beauty's flames,  
Leaving the town with songs and hallowed lights,  
To do great Ceres Eleusina rites  
Of zealous sacrifice, were made a prey,  
To barbarous rovers, that in ambush lay,  
And with rude hands enforced their shining spoil,  
Far from the darkened city, tired with toil :  
And when the yellow issue of the sky  
Came trooping forth, jealous of cruelty  
To their bright fellows of this under-heaven,  
Into a double night they saw them driven,—  
A horrid cave, the thieves' black mansion ;  
Where, weary of the journey they had gone,  
Their last night's watch, and drunk with their  
sweet gains,  
Dull Morpheus entered, laden with silken chains,  
Stronger than iron, and bound the swelling veins  
And tirèd senses of these lawless swains.  
But when the virgin lights thus dimly burned,  
Oh, what a hell was heaven in ! how they  
mourned,  
And wrung their hands, and wound their gentle  
forms  
Into the shapes of sorrow ! golden storms  
Fell from their eyes ; as when the sun appears,

And yet it rains, so showed their eyes their tears :  
And, as when funeral dames watch a dead corse,  
Weeping about it, telling with remorse  
What pains he felt, how long in pain he lay,  
How little food he ate, what he would say ;  
And then mix mournful tales of others' deaths,  
Smothering themselves in clouds of their own  
breaths ;

At length, one cheering other, call for wine ;  
The golden bowl drinks tears out of their eyne,  
As they drink wine from it ; and round it goes,  
Each helping other to relieve their woes ;  
So cast these virgins' beauties mutual rays,  
One lights another, face the face displays ;  
Lips by reflection kissed, and hands hands shook,  
Even by the whiteness each of other took.

But Hymen now used friendly Morpheus' aid,  
Slew every thief, and rescued every maid :  
And now did his enamoured passion take  
Heart from his hearty deed, whose worth did make  
His hope of bounteous Eucharis more strong ;  
And now came Love with Proteus, who had long  
Juggled the little god with prayers and gifts,  
Ran through all shapes, and varied all his shifts,  
To win Love's stay with him, and make him love  
him ;

And when he saw no strength of sleight could  
move him

To make him love or stay, he nimbly turned  
Into Love's self, he so extremely burned.  
And thus came Love, with Proteus and his power,  
T' encounter Eucharis : first, like the flower  
That Juno's milk did spring, the silver lily,  
He fell on Hymen's hand, who straight did spy  
The bounteous godhead, and with wondrous joy  
Offered it Eucharis. She, wondrous coy,  
Drew back her hand : the subtle flower did woo it,  
And, drawing it near, mixed so you could not  
know it :

As two clear tapers mix in one their light,  
So did the lily and the hand their white.  
She viewed it ; and her view the form bestows  
Amongst her spirits ; for, as colour flows  
From superficies of each thing we see,  
Even so with colours forms emitted be ;  
And where Love's form is, Love is ; Love is  
form :

He entered at the eye ; his sacred storm  
Rose from the hand, Love's sweetest instrument :  
It stirred her blood's sea so, that high it went,  
And beat in bashful waves 'gainst the white shore  
Of her divided cheeks : it raged the more,  
Because the tide went 'gainst the haughty wind  
Of her estate and birth ; and, as we find,  
In fainting ebbs, the flowery Zephyr hurls  
The green-haired Hellespont, broke in silver curls,  
84 'Gainst

'Gainst Hero's tower; but in his blast's retreat,  
The waves obeying him, they after beat,  
Leaving the chalky shore a great way pale,  
Then moist it freshly with another gale;  
So ebb'd and flow'd in Eucharis's face,  
Coyness and Love strived which had greatest  
grace;

Virginity did fight on Coyness' side,  
Fear of her parents' frowns, and female pride  
Loathing the lower place, more than it loves  
The high contents desert and virtue moves.

With Love fought Hymen's beauty and his  
valour,

Which scarce could so much favour yet allure  
To come to strike, but, fameless, idle stood:

Action is fiery valour's sovereign good.

But Love once entered, wished no greater aid  
Than he could find within; thought thought  
betrayed;

The bribed, but incorrupted, garrison

Sung "Io Hymen;" there those songs begun,

And Love was grown so rich with such a gain,

And wanton with the ease of his free reign,

That he would turn into her roughest frowns

To turn them out; and thus he Hymen crowns

King of his thoughts, man's greatest empery:

This was his first brave step to deity.

Home to the mourning city they repair,

With news as wholesome as the morning air,  
To the sad parents of each savèd maid :  
But Hymen and his Eucharis had laid  
This plot, to make the flame of their delight  
Round as the moon at full, and full as bright.

Because the parents of chaste Eucharis  
Exceeding Hymen's so, might cross their bliss ;  
And as the world rewards deserts, that law  
Cannot assist with force ; so when they saw  
Their daughter safe, take 'vantage of their own.  
Praise Hymen's valour much, nothing bestown ;  
Hymen must leave the virgins in a grove  
Far off from Athens, and go first to prove,  
If to restore them all with fame and life,  
He should enjoy his dearest as his wife.  
This told to all the maids, the most agree :  
The riper sort, knowing what 'tis to be  
The first mouth of a news so far derived,  
And that to hear and bear news brave folks lived,  
As being a carriage special hard to bear  
Occurrents, these occurrents being so dear,  
They did with grace protest, they were content  
T' accost their friends with all their compliment,  
For Hymen's good ; but to incur their harm,  
There he must pardon them. This wit went  
warm

To Adolesche's brain, a nymph born high,  
Made all of voice and fire, that upwards fly :

Her heart and all her forces' nether train  
Climbed to her tongue, and thither fell her brain,  
Since it could go no higher; and it must go;  
All powers she had, even her tongue did so:  
In spirit and quickness she much joy did take,  
And loved her tongue, only for quickness' sake;  
And she would haste and tell. The rest all stay:  
Hymen goes one, the nymph another way;  
And what became of her I'll tell at last:  
Yet take her visage now;—moist-lipped, long-  
faced,  
Thin like an iron wedge, so sharp and tart,  
As 'twere of purpose made to cleave Love's heart:  
Well were this lovely beauty rid of her.  
And Hymen did at Athens now prefer  
His welcome suit, which he with joy aspired:  
A hundred princely youths with him retired  
To fetch the nymphs; chariots and music went:  
And home they came: heaven with applauses  
rent.

The nuptials straight proceed, whiles all the town,  
Fresh in their joys, might do them most renown.  
First, gold-locked Hymen did to church repair,  
Like a quick offering burned in flames of hair;  
And after, with a virgin firmament  
The godhead-proving bride attended went  
Before them all: she looked in her command,  
As if form-giving Cypria's silver hand

Gripped all their beauties, and crushed out one  
flame ;  
She blushed to see how beauty overcame  
The thoughts of all men. Next, before her went  
Five lovely children, decked with ornament  
Of her sweet colours, bearing torches by ;  
For light was held a happy augury  
Of generation, whose efficient right  
Is nothing else but to produce to light.  
The odd disparent number they did choose,  
To show the union married loves should use,  
Since in two equal parts it will not sever,  
But the midst holds one to rejoin it ever,  
As common to both parts: men therefore deem,  
That equal number gods do not esteem,  
Being authors of sweet peace and unity,  
But pleasing to th' infernal empery,  
Under whose ensigns Wars and Discords fight,  
Since an even number you may disunite  
In two parts equal, nought in middle left  
To reunite each part from other left ;  
And five they hold in most especial prize,  
Since 'tis the first odd number that doth rise  
From the two foremost numbers' unity,  
That odd and even are ; which are two and three ;  
For one no number is ; but thence doth flow  
The powerful race of number. Next, did go  
A noble matron, that did spinning bear



A huswife's rock and spindle, and did wear  
A wether's skin, with all the snowy fleece,  
To intimate that even the daintest piece  
And noblest-born dame should industrious be:  
That which does good disgraceth no degree.

And now to Juno's temple they are come,  
Where her grave priest stood in the marriage-  
room:

On his right arm did hang a scarlet veil,  
And from his shoulders to the ground did trail,  
On either side, ribands of white and blue:

With the red veil he hid the bashful hue  
Of the chaste bride, to show the modest shame,  
In coupling with a man, should grace a dame.

Then took he the disparent silks, and tied  
The lovers by the waists, and side to side,  
In token that thereafter they must bind  
In one self-sacred knot each other's mind.

Before them on an altar he presented  
Both fire and water, which was first invented,  
Since to ingenerate every human creature  
And every other birth produced by Nature,  
Moisture and heat must mix: so man and wife  
For human race must join in nuptial life.

Then one of Juno's birds, the painted jay,  
He sacrificed, and took the gall away;

All which he did behind the altar throw,  
In sign no bitterness of hate should grow,

'Twiſt married loves, nor any leaſt diſdain.  
Nothing they ſpake, for 'twas eſteemed too plain  
For the moſt ſilken mildneſs of a maid,  
To let a public audience hear it ſaid,  
She boldly took the man; and ſo reſpected  
Was baſhfulneſs in Athens, it erected  
To chaste Agneia, which is Shamefacedneſs,  
A ſacred temple, holding her a goddeſs.  
And now to feaſts, maſques, and triumphant  
ſhows,  
The ſhining troops returned, even till earth-throes  
Brought forth with joy the thickeſt part of night  
When the ſweet nuptial ſong, that uſed to cite  
All to their reſt, was by Phemonœ ſung,  
Firſt Delphian prophetess, whoſe graces ſprung  
Out of the Muſes' well: ſhe ſung before  
The bride into her chamber; at which door  
A matron and a torch-bearer did ſtand:  
A painted box of comfits in her hand  
The matron held, and ſo did other ſome  
That compaſſed round the honoured nuptial room.  
The cuſtom was, that every maid did wear,  
During her maidenhood, a ſilken ſphere  
About her waſt, above her inmoſt weed,  
Knit with Minerva's knot, and that was freed  
By the fair bridegroom on the marriage-night,  
With many ceremonies of delight:  
And yet eterniſed Hymen's tender bride,

To suffer it dissolved so, sweetly cried.  
The maids that heard, so loved and did adore  
her,  
They wished with all their hearts to suffer for  
her.  
So had the matrons, that with comfits stood  
About the chamber, such affectionate blood,  
And so true feeling of her harmless pains,  
That every one a shower of comfits rains;  
For which the bride-youths scrambling on the  
ground,  
In noise of that sweet hail her cries were drowned.  
And thus blest Hymen joyed his gracious bride,  
And for his joy was after deified.  
The saffron mirror by which Phœbus' love,  
Green Tellus, decks her, now he held above  
The cloudy mountains: and the noble maid,  
Sharp-visaged Adolesche, that was strayed  
Out of her way, in hasting with her news,  
Not till this hour th' Athenian turrets views;  
And now brought home by guides, she heard by  
all,  
That her long kept occurrents would be stale,  
And now fair Hymen's honours did excel  
For those rare news, which she came short to tell.  
To hear her dear tongue robbed of such a joy,  
Made the well-spoken nymph take such a toy,  
That down she sunk: when lightning from above

Shrunk her lean body, and, for mere free love,  
Turned her into the pied-plumed Psittacus,  
That now the Parrot is surnamed by us,  
Who still with counterfeit confusion prates  
Nought but news common to the commonest  
mates.—

This told, strange Teras touched her lute, and  
sung  
This ditty, that the torchy evening sprung.

### EPITHALAMION TERATOS.

Come, come, dear Night! Love's mart of kisses,  
Sweet close of his ambitious line,  
The fruitful summer of his blisses!  
Love's glory doth in darkness shine.

Oh, come, soft rest of cares! come, Night!  
Come, naked Virtue's only tire,  
The reapèd harvest of the light,  
Bound up in sheaves of sacred fire!  
Love calls to war;  
Sighs his alarms,  
Lips his swords are,  
The field his arms.

Come, Night, and lay thy velvet hand  
On glorious Day's outfacing face;  
And all thy crownèd flames command,  
For torches to our nuptial grace!

Love calls to war;  
Sighs his alarms,  
Lips his swords are,  
The field his arms.

No need have we of factious Day,  
To cast, in envy of thy peace,  
Her balls of discord in thy way:  
Here beauty's day doth never cease;  
Day is abstracted here,  
And varied in a triple sphere.  
Hero, Alcmane, Mya, so outshine thee,  
Ere thou come here, let Thetis thrice refine thee.

Love calls to war;  
Sighs his alarms,  
Lips his swords are,  
The field his arms.

The evening star I see:  
Rise, youths! the evening star  
Helps Love to summon war;  
Both now embracing be.

Rise, youths! Love's rite claims more than  
banquets; rise!  
Now the bright marigolds, that deck the skies,  
Phœbus' celestial flowers, that, contrary  
To his flowers here, ope when he shuts his eye,  
And shut when he doth open, crown your sports:  
Now Love in Night, and Night in Love exhorts

Courtship and dances: all your parts employ,  
And suit Night's rich expansure with your joy.  
Love paints his longings in sweet virgins' eyes:  
Rise, youths! Love's rite claims more than  
banquets; rise!

Rise, virgins! let fair nuptial loves enfold  
Your fruitless breasts: the maidenheads ye hold  
Are not your own alone, but parted are;  
Part in disposing them your parents share,  
And that a third part is; so must ye save  
Your loves a third, and you your thirds must  
have.

Love paints his longings in sweet virgins' eyes:  
Rise, youths! Love's rite claims more than  
banquets; rise!

Herewith the amorous spirit, that was so kind  
To Teras' hair, and combed it down with wind,  
Still as it, comet-like, brake from her brain,  
Would needs have Teras gone, and did refrain  
To blow it down: which, staring up, dismayed  
The timorous feast; and she no longer stayed;  
But, bowing to the bridegroom and the bride,  
Did, like a shooting exhalation, glide  
Out of their sights: the turning of her back  
Made them all shriek, it looked so ghastly black.  
Oh, hapless Hero! that most hapless cloud  
Thy soon-succeeding tragedy foreshowed.

Thus all the nuptial crew to joys depart ;  
But much-wrung Hero stood Hell's blackest  
dart :  
Whose wound because I grieve so to display,  
I use digressions thus t' increase the day.

THE ARGUMENT OF THE SIXTH  
SESTIAD.

Leucote flies to all the Winds,  
And from the Fates their outrage blinds,  
That Hero and her love may meet.  
Leander, with Love's complete fleet  
Manned in himself, puts forth to seas:  
When straight the ruthless Destinies,  
With Até, stirs the winds to war  
Upon the Hellespont; their jar  
Drowns poor Leander. Hero's eyes,  
Wet witnesses of his surprise,  
Her torch blown out, grief casts her down  
Upon her love, and both doth drown:  
In whose just ruth the god of seas  
Transforms them to th' Acanthides.





O longer could the Day nor  
Destinies  
Delay the Night, who now did  
frowning rise  
Into her throne; and at her  
humorous breasts  
Visions and Dreams lay sucking :

all men's rests

Fell like the mists of death upon their eyes,  
Day's too-long darts so killed their faculties.  
The Winds yet, like the flowers, to cease began;  
For bright Leucote, Venus' whitest swan,  
That held sweet Hero dear, spread her fair wings,  
Like to a field of snow, and message brings  
From Venus to the Fates, t' entreat them lay  
Their charge upon the Winds their rage to stay,  
That the stern battle of the seas might cease,  
And guard Leander to his love in peace.  
The Fates consent;—ah, me, dissembling Fates!—  
They showed their favours to conceal their hates,  
And draw Leander on, lest seas too high  
Should stay his too obsequious destiny:  
Who like a fleering slavish parasite,  
In warping profit or a traitorous sleight,  
Hoops round his rotten body with devotes,  
And pricks his descant face full of false notes;  
Praising with open throat, and oaths as foul  
As his false heart, the beauty of an owl;

Kissing his skipping hand with charmed skips,  
That cannot leave, but leaps upon his lips  
Like a cock-sparrow, or a shameless quean  
Sharp at a red-lipped youth, and nought doth  
mean

Of all his antic shows, but doth repair  
More tender fawns, and takes a scattered hair  
From his tame subject's shoulder; whips and calls  
For every thing he lacks; creeps 'gainst the walls  
With backward humbles, to give needless way:  
Thus his false fate did with Leander play.

First to black Eurus flies the white Leucote,  
(Born 'mongst the negroes in the Levant sea,  
On whose curled head the glowing sun doth rise,)  
And shows the sovereign will of Destinies,  
To have him cease his blasts; and down he lies.  
Next, to the fenny Notus course she holds,  
And found him leaning, with his arms in folds,  
Upon a rock, his white hair full of showers;  
And him she chargeth by the fatal powers,  
To hold in his wet cheeks his cloudy voice.  
To Zephyr then that doth in flowers rejoice:  
To snake-foot Boreas next she did remove,  
And found him tossing of his ravished love,  
To heat his frosty bosom hid in snow;  
Who with Leucote's sight did cease to blow.  
Thus all were still to Hero's heart's desire;  
Who with all speed did consecrate a fire

Of flaming gums and comfortable spice,  
To light her torch, which in such curious price  
She held, being object to Leander's sight,  
That nought but fires perfumed must give it light.  
She loved it so, she grieved to see it burn,  
Since it would waste, and soon to ashes turn :  
Yet, if it burned not, 'twere not worth her eyes ;  
What made it nothing, gave it all the prize.  
Sweet torch, true glass of our society !  
What man does good, but he consumes thereby ?  
But thou wert loved for good, held high, given  
show ;  
Poor virtue loathed for good, obscured, held low :  
Do good, be pined, be deedless good, disgraced ;  
Unless we feed on men, we let them fast.  
Yet Hero with these thoughts her torch did  
spend :  
When bees make wax, Nature doth not intend  
It should be made a torch ; but we, that know  
The proper virtue of it, make it so,  
And when 'tis made, we light it : nor did Nature  
Propose one life to maids ; but each such creature  
Makes by her soul the best of her true state,  
Which without love is rude, disconsolate,  
And wants love's fire to make it mild and bright,  
Till when, maids are but torches wanting light.  
Thus 'gainst our grief, not cause of grief, we  
fight :

The right of nought is gleaned, but the delight.  
Up went she: but to tell how she descended,  
Would God she were not dead, or my verse ended!  
She was the rule of wishes, sum, and end,  
For all the parts that did on love depend:  
Yet cast the torch his brightness further forth;  
But what shines nearest best, holds truest worth.  
Leander did not through such tempests swim  
To kiss the torch, although it lighted him:  
But all his powers in her desires awakèd,  
Her love and virtues clothed him richly naked.  
Men kiss but fire that only shows pursue;  
Her torch and Hero, figure show and virtue.

Now at opposed Abydos nought was heard  
But bleating flocks, and many a bellowing herd,  
Slain for the nuptials; cracks of falling woods;  
Blows of broad axes; pourings out of floods.  
The guilty Hellespont was mixed and stained  
With bloody torrent that the shambles rained;  
Not arguments of feast, but shows that bled,  
Foretelling that red night that followèd.  
More blood was spilt, more honours were address'd,  
Than could have gracèd any happy feast;  
Rich banquets, triumphs, every pomp employs  
His sumptuous hand; no miser's nuptial joys.  
Air felt continual thunder with the noise  
Made in the general marriage-violence;  
And no man knew the cause of this expense,



Neptune  
quells  
waves  
to stay  
rash  
Destiny

But the two hapless lords, Leander's sire,  
And poor Leander, poorest where the fire  
Of credulous love made him most rich surmised :  
As short was he of that himself so prized,  
As in an empty gallant full of form,  
That thinks each look an act, each drop a storm,  
That falls from his brave breathings; most  
brought up

In our metropolis, and hath his cup  
Brought after him to feasts; and much palm bears  
For his rare judgment in the attire he wears;  
Hath seen the hot Low Countries, not their heat,  
Observes their rampires and their buildings yet;  
And, for your sweet discourse with mouths, is  
heard

Giving instructions with his very beard;  
Hath gone with an ambassador, and been  
A great man's mate in travelling, even to Rhene;  
And then puts all his worth in such a face  
As he saw brave men make, and strives for grace  
To get his news forth: as when you descry  
A ship, with all her sail contends to fly  
Out of the narrow Thames with winds unapt,  
Now crosseth here, now there, then this way rapt,  
And then hath one point reached, then alters all,  
And to another crookèd reach doth fall  
Of half a bird-bolt's shoot, keeping more coil  
Than if she danced upon the ocean's toil;  
So serious is his trifling company,  
In all his swelling ship of vacantry.  
And so short of himself in his high thought  
Was our Leander in his fortunes brought,  
And in his fort of love that he thought won;  
But otherwise he scorns comparison.

Oh, sweet Leander, thy large worth I hide  
In a short grave! ill-favoured storms must chide

Thy sacred favour: I in floods of ink  
Must drown thy graces, which white papers drink,  
Even as thy beauties did the foul black seas;  
I must describe the hell of thy decease,  
That heaven did merit: yet I needs must see  
Our painted fools and cockhorse peasantry  
Still, still usurp, with long lives, loves, and lust,  
The seats of Virtue, cutting short as dust  
Her dear-bought issue: ill to worse converts,  
And tramples in the blood of all deserts.

Night close and silent now goes fast before  
The captains and the soldiers to the shore,  
On whom attended the appointed fleet  
At Sestos' bay, that should Leander meet.  
Who feigned he in another ship would pass?  
Which must not be, for no one mean there was  
To get his love home, but the course he took.  
Forth did his beauty for his beauty look,  
And saw her through her torch, as you behold  
Sometimes within the sun a face of gold,  
Formed in strong thoughts, by that tradition's  
force,  
That says a god sits there and guides his course.  
His sister was with him; to whom he shewed  
His guide by sea, and said, "Oft have you viewed  
In one heaven many stars, but never yet  
In one star many heavens till now were met.  
See, lovely sister! see, now Hero shines,

No heaven but her appears ; each star repines,  
And all are clad in clouds as if they mourned  
To be by influence of earth out-burned.  
Yet doth she shine, and teacheth Virtue's train  
Still to be constant in hell's blackest reign,  
Though even the gods themselves do so entreat  
them

As they did hate, and earth as she would eat  
them."

Off went his silken robe, and in he leapt,  
Whom the kind waves so licorously cleapt,  
Thickening for haste, one in another, so,  
To kiss his skin, that he might almost go  
To Hero's tower, had that kind minute lasted.  
But now the cruel Fates with Atè hasted  
To all the Winds, and made them battle fight  
Upon the Hellespont, for either's right  
Pretended to the windy monarchy ;  
And forth they brake, the seas mixed with the  
sky,  
And tossed distressed Leander, being in hell,  
As high as heaven : bliss not in height doth dwell.  
The Destinies sate dancing on the waves,  
To see the glorious Winds with mutual braves  
Consume each other : oh, true glass, to see  
How ruinous ambitious statists be  
To their own glories ! Poor Leander cried  
For help to sea-born Venus ; she denied,—



To Boreas, that, for his Atthæa's sake,  
He would some pity on his Hero take,  
And for his own love's sake, on his desires:  
But Glory never blows cold Pity's fires.  
Then called he Neptune, who, through all the  
noise,  
Knew with affright his wracked Leander's voice,  
And up he rose; for haste his forehead hit  
'Gainst heaven's hard crystal; his proud waves he  
smit  
With his forked sceptre, that could not obey;  
Much greater powers than Neptune's gave them  
sway.  
They loved Leander so, in groans they brake  
When they came near him; and such space did  
take  
'Twixt one another, loth to issue on,  
That in their shallow furrows earth was shown,  
And the poor lover took a little breath:  
But the curst Fates sate spinning of his death  
On every wave, and with the servile Winds  
Tumbled them on him. And now Hero finds,  
By that she felt, her dear Leander's state:  
She wept, and prayed for him to every Fate;  
And every wind that whipped her with her hair  
About the face, she kissed and spake it fair,  
Kneeled to it, gave it drink out of her eyes  
To quench his thirst: but still their cruelties

Even her poor torch envied, and rudely beat  
The bating flame from that dear food it eat;  
Dear, for it nourished her Leander's life,  
Which with her robe she rescued from their  
strife:

But silk too soft was such hard hearts to break;  
And she, dear soul, even as her silk, faint, weak,  
Could not preserve it; out, oh, out it went!  
Leander still called Neptune, that now rent  
His brackish curls, and tore his wrinkled face,  
Where tears in billows did each other chase;  
And, burst with ruth, he hurled his marble mace  
At the stern Fates: it wounded Lachesis  
That drew Leander's thread, and could not miss.  
The thread itself, as it her hand did hit,  
But smote it full, and quite did sunder it.  
The more kind Neptune raged, the more he rased  
His love's life's fort, and killed as he embraced:  
Anger doth still his own mishap increase;  
If any comfort live, it is in peace.  
Oh, thievish Fates, to let blood, flesh, and sense,  
Build two fair temples for their excellence,  
To rob it with a poisoned influence!  
Though souls' gifts starve, the bodies are held  
dear  
In ugliest things; sense-sport preserves a bear:  
But here nought serves our turns; oh, heaven and  
earth,

How most most wretched is our human birth !  
And now did all the tyrannous crew depart,  
Knowing there was a storm in Hero's heart,  
Greater than they could make, and scorned their  
smart.

She bowed herself so low out of her tower,  
That wonder 'twas she fell not ere her hour,  
With searching the lamenting waves for him :  
Like a poor snail, her gentle supple limb  
Hung on her turret's top, so much downright,  
As she would dive beneath the darkness quite,  
To find her jewel ;—jewel !—her Leander,  
A name of all earth's jewels pleased not her  
Like his dear name : “ Leander, still my choice,  
Come nought but my Leander ! Oh, my voice,  
Turn to Leander ! henceforth be all sounds,  
Accents, and phrases, that show all griefs' wounds,  
Analysed in Leander ! Oh, black change !  
Trumpets, do you with thunder of your clange,  
Drive out this change's horror ! My voice faints :  
Where all joy was, now shriek out all complaints ! ”  
Thus cried she ; for her mixèd soul could tell  
Her love was dead : and when the Morning fell  
Prostrate upon the weeping earth for woe,  
Blushes, that bled out of her cheeks, did show  
Leander brought by Neptune, bruised and torn  
With cities' ruins he to rocks had worn,  
To filthy usuring rocks, that would have blood,  
107 Though

Though they could get of him no other good.  
 She saw him, and the sight was much, much  
 more  
 Than might have served to kill her: should her  
 store  
 Of giant sorrows speak? [No]—burst,—die,—  
 bleed,  
 And leave poor plaints to us that shall succeed.  
 She fell on her love's bosom, hugged it fast,  
 And with Leander's name she breathed her last.  
 Neptune for pity in his arms did take them,  
 Flung them into the air, and did awake them  
 Like two sweet birds, surnamed th' Acanthides,  
 Which we call Thistle-warps, that near no seas  
 Dare ever come, but still in couples fly,  
 And feed on thistle-tops, to testify  
 The hardness of their first life in their last;  
 The first, in thorns of love, that sorrows past:  
 And so much beautiful their colours show,  
 As none (so little) like them; her sad brow  
 A sable velvet feather covers quite,  
 Even like the forehead-cloth that, in the night,  
 Or when they sorrow, ladies use to wear:  
 Their wings, blue, red, and yellow, mixed appear;  
 Colours that, as we construe colours, paint  
 Their states to life;—the yellow shows their  
 saint,  
 The dainty Venus, left them; blue, their truth;  
 108 The

The red and black, ensigns of death and ruth.  
And this true honour from their love-death  
sprung,—  
They were the first that ever poet sung.  
**THE END OF HERO AND LEANDER.**

THE PASSIONATE SHEPHERD TO  
HIS LOVE.

☞ Come live with me, and be my love ;  
And we will all the pleasures prove  
That hills and valleys, dales and fields,  
Woods or steepy mountain yields.

And we will sit upon the rocks,  
Seeing the shepherds feed their flocks  
By shallow rivers, to whose falls  
Melodious birds sing madrigals.

And I will make thee beds of roses,  
And a thousand fragrant posies ;  
A cap of flowers, and a kirtle  
Embroidered all with leaves of myrtle ;

A gown made of the finest wool,  
Which from our pretty lambs we pull ;  
Fair lined slippers for the cold,  
With buckles of the purest gold ;

A belt of straw and ivy-buds  
With coral clasps, and amber-studs :  
And, if these pleasures may thee move,  
Come live with me, and be my love.

The shepherd swains shall dance and sing  
For thy delight each May-morning :  
If these delights thy mind may move,  
Then live with me, and be my love.

FRAGMENT FROM "ENGLAND'S  
PARNASSUS." MDC.

✻ I walked along a stream, for pureness  
rare,

Brighter than sunshine; for it did acquaint  
The dullest sight with all the glorious prey  
That in the pebble-pavèd channel lay.

No molten crystal, but a richer mine,

Even Nature's rarest alchymy ran there,—  
Diamonds resolved, and substance more  
divine,

Through whose bright-gliding current might  
appear

A thousand naked nymphs, whose ivory shine,  
Enamelling the banks, made them more  
dear

Than ever was that glorious palace' gate  
Where the day-shining Sun in triumph sate.

Upon this brim the eglantine and rose,

The tamarisk, olive, and the almond tree,  
As kind companions, in one union grows,  
Folding their twining arms, as oft we see.

Turtle-taught lovers either other close,

Lending to dulness feeling sympathy:  
And as a costly valance o'er a bed,  
So did their garland-tops the brook o'erspread.

Their leaves that differed both in shape and show,  
Though all were green, yet difference such in  
green,  
Like to the checkered bent of Iris' bow,  
Prided the running main, as it had been—

✧ THIS BOOK WITH DECORATIONS  
DESIGNED AND CUT ON THE WOOD  
BY CHARLES RICKETTS AND CHARLES  
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IN NOVEMBER MDCCCXCIII AND  
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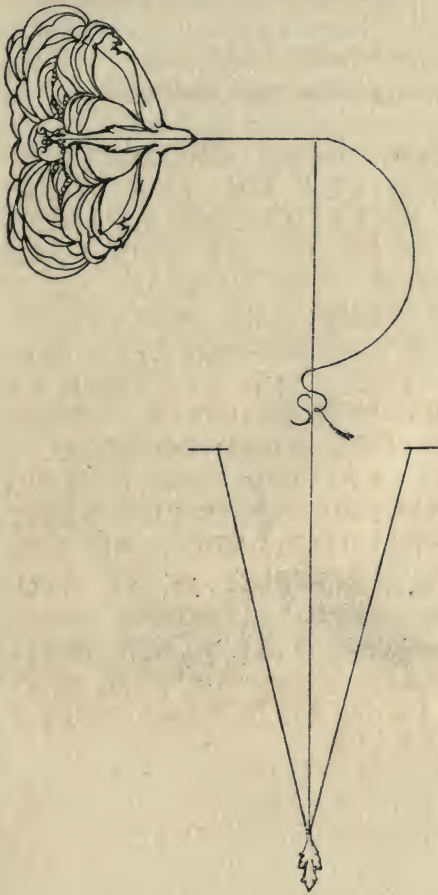
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INTER FOLIA RENATA ROSA









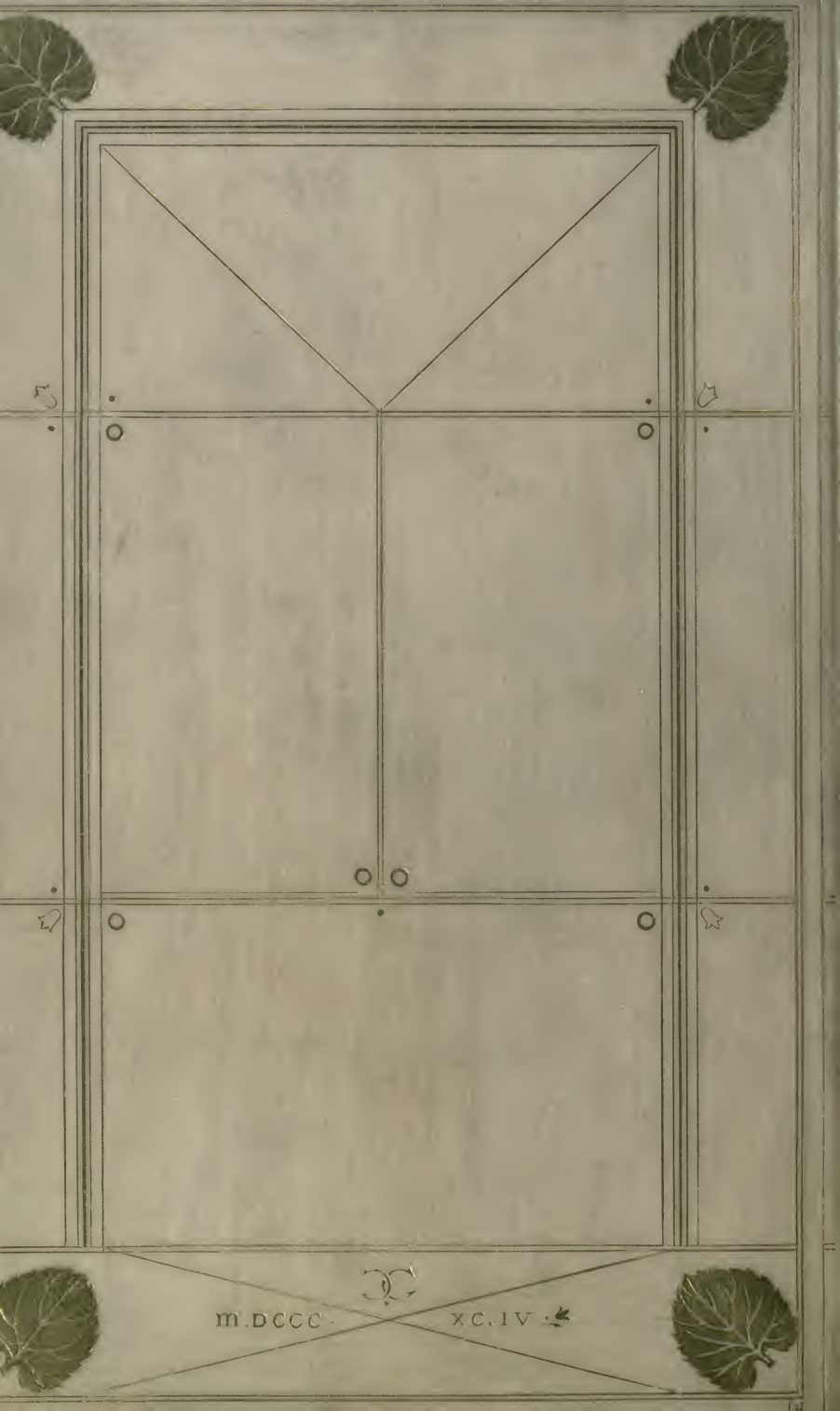


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