

SOCRATES

How bold the vision of a mind
Unkept of Dogma's dismal theme,
In quest of Truth, itself to find
Awake to Nature's endless theme!

A soul enlarged of forward thought
In brilliance ringed, a thing sublime,
Earth-seized, as of some meteor caught
Long centuries before its time.

In mortal thrall immortal sense
No earthly bounds of transport knew—
The spheres alone pledged recompense
To righteous quest's protracted view.

As fleshed in outward form a man,
He sought in humble part to dwell;
And, sundering Convention's ban,
He dared to be an infidel.

How impotent is Death's crude hand
That wills to serve a fatal cup,
When Virtue, moved of Faith's command,
Flings off with jest the poisoned cup!"

CHARLES SLOAN REID

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