THE TREES, THE ROCKS, AND THE WATERS.

THE TREES.

They've learned Life's lesson well.
Spring—their tiring-maid,
Whispered it while she served,
Charming their quickened thought to sweetness;
Whispered it till weeping;
Weeping for sympathy.
Weeping till they smiled,
Like gems, in the following sun-gleam.
For sympathy.

Summer sought their sheltering arms,
Fleeing from Summer's self:
Shrinking sought their grateful shade,
At thought of her ungrateful task
To press to parched, longing lips,
A mocking chalice.
Autumn,—calculating coquette!
Kissed them till they blushed,—
    In leafy glory;
Kissed them till they deemed the dying day,
    But vanquished rival.

Kissed them till they stood, her liveried slaves;
    Bending in tropic ecstacy,
    Casting all their riches
    At her vanishing feet:
Waking not from their mad love-dream.
Till roused by Winter's relentless grasp:
Then, taking hood of snow.

Hoping,—through icy penance, to gain
    A better for the old love;
    A better for the old life;

Hoping now, that when the End comes,
They'll bloom immortal
    By the Chrystal Stream.

THE ROCKS.

Who sings their charms?
Who does them reverence?

Upforced from earth's depths,
Upraised to throne and crown,
They moss-bedeck themselves;
They vine-enwreath themselves.
In differing glory, then, they rule:
Rule both land and sea.

Captives of hammer and chisel,
They marshal themselves in strength and grace.
Yet—swayed by primal purpose,
They're loyal to ivy and mould:
Yet—swayed by primal purpose,
    They court disorder;
    God's pictured disorder;
    Seemingly planless disorder.

In concordant lines are bird and flower.
    Earth's chiefest glory-source;
    Earth's Architect's chiefest earthly things:
Whose use contrasts Nature's harmonies.
With seemingly lawless, errant force;
These tell him, who sees aright,
God caused man's love for pictures:
Pictures, showing—by fragment-parts—
Man's life, as like themselves.
These tell him God forms, with broken hearts,
    Heaven's Glory-Scenes.
Broken rocks!
Broken hearts!
Earth's Architects chiefest earthly things:
Heaven's Architect's chiefest heavenly things.

THE WATERS.

Envious waters! envious of earth.
With green eyes, envious to madness.
   No heart have they for love:
   Envy has no heart.
Their creed, that luring myth:
   That sea-dream,—
   The moon's dowry of power,
To make them live, move, and be strong.

They fawn, submissivly, to Luna;
They propitiate her with wave-offerings:
   Offerings of homage.
They murmur and sob and thunder to her,
   Praying for Earth's subjection:
   Loving, gracious Earth!
Thus they pray; kissing Earth's feet.
   In seeming loyalty.

   The waters are hypocrites;
   Courtly, treacherous hypocrites;
   Human in treachery.
The waters are greedy of all things;
Remorselessly greedy; pitiless in greed.
The waters are human in greed.

Offended Æolus lashes the treacherous waters;
Scourges them till they writhe and foam,
   And flood the marsh-land.
The souls of treacherous men, transmigrated,
   Æolus torments.
Treacherous, huddling wave-crests are they,
   These shivering souls:
   These cowardly souls;
   Spectral and wan.
These trembling wave-crests; parasites;
Unstabler are they than the waves that bear them.
   Envious waters!
   Faithless waters!

"No more sea," the Good Book reads:
   When this globe takes fore-told newness;
   When this globe is freed from evil;
   No More Sea!

C. Crozat Converse.