SUBJECT AND OBJECT.

BY WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE.

A DROP of water from the ocean’s face
Dashed up, to sparkle a moment in the light,
Then fall, its impulse spent, leaving in sight
Upon the eternal vast expanse no trace
Behind; a phantom, hounded in the chase
By cruel clamorous years; an atom, quite
Helpless, and hurled along in aimless flight
Upon the void unbounded ways of space—

Viewed from without, even such is man, but how
Other, seen by himself, within; the sum
Of sufferings measureless, of raptures dumb,
Being beyond reach of words; purpose his brow
Enthroning, defiant of fate’s deepest curse;
His mind the bearer of the universe.