

Its two banks have not shut upon the river;  
But it is long ago -  
It seems forever -  
Since first I saw thee glance,  
With all the dazzling other ones,  
In airy dalliance,  
Precipitate in love,  
Tossed, tangled, whirled and whirled above,  
Like a limp rose-wreath in a fairy dance.  
When that was, the soft mist  
Of my regret hung not on all the land,  
And I was glad for thee,  
And glad for me, I wist.  
Thou didst not know, who tottered, wandering on high,  
That fate had made thee for the pleasure of the wind,  
With those great careless wings,  
Nor yet did I.  
And there were other things:  
It seemed God let thee flutter from his gentle clasp:  
Then fearful he had let thee win  
Too far beyond him to be gathered in,  
Snatched thee, o'er eager, with ungentle grasp.  
Ah! I remember me  
How once conspiracy was rife  
Against my life -  
The languor of it and the dreaming fond;  
Surging, the grasses dizzied me of thought,  
The breeze three odors brought,  
And a gem-flower waved in a wand!  
Then when I was distraught  
And could not speak,  
Sidelong, full on my cheek,  
What should that reckless zephyr fling