Regret

Darling lying there so pale and still,

With the death-dew on thy quiet brow,

Hall I twine my loving arms around thee?

Kiss the lips that answer now?

Through the rigid silence that enfolds thee,

In the shadowland of specters drear,

~~Would~~ (Could) my warm caresses stir thy heart beats?

Would my loving whispers reach thine ears?

Dearest, for the tender words unspoken

While thine eyes of azure met the day,

Now with aching heart I sue for pardon,

Weep repentance o’er thy lifeless clay.

Seldom can we guard from loss love’s sweetness

In the cruel strain of mortal life,

With the tumult of the world around us,

And our souls distracted by its strife.

Only when the grave has sealed forever

From our gaze the faces that we loved,

Do we realise, with bitter heart-pain

What a feeble staff our love has proved.

Then we vainly cry across the silence,

Strain our feeble eyes into the night,

Listening, longing, praying for and answer

From the dear ones hidden from our sight.

Dearest, in the far off world of spirits

Thou art safe forever from earth’s pain,

Farther than my voice of grief can follow,

Thou art dwelling till we meet again.

Darling, on thy calm cold brow I kiss thee,

Kiss thine icy lips a last ‘Good-bye’ –

This I sorrow over is but the casket,

In Gods crown the jewel gleams on high!