**We Wear the Mask**

    WE wear the mask that grins and lies,   
    It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes,—   
    This debt we pay to human guile;   
    With torn and bleeding hearts we smile,   
    And mouth with myriad subtleties.

    Why should the world be over-wise,   
    In counting all our tears and sighs?   
    Nay, let them only see us, while   
            We wear the mask.

    We smile, but, O great Christ, our cries   
    To thee from tortured souls arise.   
    We sing, but oh the clay is vile   
    Beneath our feet, and long the mile;   
    But let the world dream otherwise,   
            We wear the mask!