

Sonnet-writing: To Himself

1. Noun

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Young men should not write sonnets, if they dream

Some day to reach the bright bare seats of _____Noun_____:

To such, sweet thoughts and mighty feelings seem

As though, like foreign things, they rarely came.

Eager as men when haply they have heard

Of some new songster, some gay-feathered bird,

That hath over blue seas strayed in hope to find

In our thin foliage here a summer home

Fain would they catch the bright things in their mind,

And cage them into sonnets as they come.

No; they should serve their wants most sparingly,

Till the ripe time of song, when young thoughts fail,

Then their sad sonnets, like old bards, might be

Merry as youth, and yet grey-haired and hale