

# “WE WEAR THE MASK”

BY

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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!