

Polemical Poetry

Renowned More whose bloody Fate (1658)

Renowned *More*,¹ whose bloody Fate
England ne'er² yet could expiate,
Such was thy constant *Faith*, so much
Thy *Hope*, thy *Charity* was such
As made thee twice a Martyr prove,³ 5
Of *Faith* in Death, in Life of *Love*!
View here thy Grandchild's broken *Heart*
Wounded with a *Seraphic*⁴ *Dart*,
Who while she lived mortals among
Thus, to her *Spouse Divine*, she sung, 10
*Mirror*⁵ of *Beauty in Whose Face*
The essence lives of every Grace!
*True luster*⁶ dwells in thy sole sphere,
Those glimmerings that sometimes appear
In this dark vale, this gloomy night, 15
Are shadows tipped with glowworm light.
Show me thy radiant parts above,
Where Angels unconsumed move,
*Where amorous*⁷ *fire maintains their lives,*
As man, by breathing Air, survives. 20
*But, if perchance*⁸ *the mortal eye*
That views thy dazzling looks must die,
With blind faith here I'll kiss them & desire
To feel the heat, before I see the fire.

¹ Thomas More (1478-1535), the great-great grandfather of Gertrude More and a well-known author, politician, and saint executed under Henry VIII.

² Never.

³ Marginal note: Sir Thom[as] More.

⁴ Angelic.

⁵ The italics from this line onward may indicate that the remainder of the poem was written by Gertrude More herself.

⁶ Soft glow.

⁷ Loving.

⁸ Perhaps.