

NIGHT

—:O:—

Sweetly, sweetly, Spirit of Night,
 Breathe out thy soft voluptuousness
 While in the half moon's mellow light
 The sea sighs faint with tenderness,
 And far away from the dim land
 Are wafted softest summer smells
 Which blend with perfumes near at hand
 Of scented sea and sea-side shells.
 The sky's unfathomed cloudless heights
 Are strewn with soft and splendid stars
 While far below with twinkling lights
 Are lit the shores and harbour-bars.
 And like the song of some wild bird,
 Now but half-heard, now sounding strong,
 Thy passionate voice, O Love, is heard
 Rising o'er earth and sea in song.

O sweet beyond measure is thy voice
 O'er-sweetened by the ocean's moan,
 And sweet beyond measure is thy choice
 Of this weird song so sad and lone!
 But now thy haunting song doth end
 In lingering echoes 'mong the hills,
 Which back with soft distinctness send
 The harp-like sound of running rills,
 And slowly and sadly in the west,
 Now that the hills thy song prolong,
 The pale half moon sinks down to rest
 To sleep and dream of thy sweet song.
 And stars are fading in the skies,
 And lights are fading on the sea,
 And in the east the first streaks rise
 Of beauteous morn that is to be.

V. D. C.



SOMMARIO

Maggio 1923

CONTENTS

May 1923

1. *Le Laudi* di Gabriele D'Annunzio—

G. CURMI LL.D

p. 91

2. *O lieve augello...*—*Al Popolo*—V. FREUDO

AZOPARDI LL.D. „ 107

3. Il carattere inglese in due romanzi

italiani—X. „ 108

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