

CRETAN EPITHALAMIUM.

*Herein, in the cradle of Time, and at the dawn of Love, Joy is invoked upon the Marriage-bed: and a new Race summoned to gladden Earth, by the Will of the Gods.*

*It is Noon, the Hour of Ecstasy; Golden Babes are demanded from the Meridian Sun.*

*The Hymn is sung by a Chorus of Youths and Maidens, white-robed, their hair bound in gold fillets. The Priest's robe is purple, with gold embroideries.*

*The Marriage is celebrated in a Green Hollow, in a Recess of the Hills, near the Sea.*

CRETAN EPITHALAMIUMS.



In bluest light

Is born the great gold star ;

O sun of Night,

Pass, pass the noonday bar !

Noonday brings love below :

O Hymen !

O Hymen !

O Hymen Hymen Ho !

O sunny hour !

O gold-unfolding day !

Love's virgin flower

Today is cropt away :

At noon shall snap love's bow !

O Hymen !

O Hymen !

O Hymen Hymen Ho !

O golden June!

O myrtle-bearing sky!

Soon, soon, ah! soon

The lovers close shall lie,

At noon new blood shall flow:

O Hymen!

O Hymen!

O Hymen Hymen Ho!

O tender doves!

Come with your amorous bills!

O laughing loves!

Come bring your early thrills!

Ah! Why is noon so slow?

O Hymen!

O Hymen!

O Hymen Hymen Ho!

Venus O Sweet!

Thy doves beneath thee tread!

Mars, lend thine heat

Unto the nuptial bed!

Virgins love shall know!

O Hymen!

O Hymen!

O Hymen Hymen Ho!

Jove, be it thine

To crown the nuptial pair !

Pour down thy wine

From thine Upper Air !

All love's wonder show !

O Hymen !

O Hymen !

O Hymen Hymen Ho !

Look there where she

Comes, the virgin maid !

Love's joyancy

To her heart be laid !

Fear be still her foe !

O Hymen !

O Hymen !

O Hymen Hymen Ho !

Oh, in white truth

Comes the youngling clad :

O groom, my youth,

Kiss her lips ; be glad !

Swift be passion's flow !

O Hymen !

O Hymen !

O Hymen Hymen Ho !

Come ah ! come soon  
    Here in the sunny shade :  
Soon it is noon ;  
    Hasten to the glade !  
        Ah, Time ! thou lovers' foe ;  
        O Hymen !  
        O Hymen !  
        O Hymen Hymen Ho !

It is the hour !  
    Be noon's burden said !  
Love, be thy power  
    On the maiden's head !  
        May the ladslove grow !  
        O Hymen !  
        O Hymen !  
        O Hymen Hymen Ho !

Sweet babes be yours !  
    Lucina, bravely bless !  
Love's race endures  
    All strain and stress !  
        Laughing babes shall glow !  
        O Hymen !  
        O Hymen !  
        O Hymen Hymen Ho !

Joyance be yours,

At breast, at board, at bed,

While love outpours

In sweet lustihead!

May love still bloom and blow!

O Hymen!

O Hymen!

O Hymen Hymen Ho!