

L. E. L. (Letitia Elizabeth Landon) (1802-1838)  
[from *Life and Literary Remains* (1841)]

### THE MARRIAGE VOW.

- 1 The altar, 'tis of death! for there are laid
- 2 The sacrifice of all youth's sweetest hopes.
- 3 It is a dreadful thing for woman's lip
- 4 To swear the heart away; yet know that heart
- 5 Annuls the vow while speaking, and shrinks back
- 6 From the dark future that it dares not face.
- 7 The service read above the open grave
- 8 Is far less terrible than that which seals
- 9 The vow that binds the victim, not the will:
- 10 For in the grave is rest.