

## ELIZABETH

Elizabeth—it surely is most fit  
(Logic and common usage so commanding)  
In thy own book that *first* thy name be writ,  
Zeno\* and other sages notwithstanding;  
And *I* have other reasons for so doing  
Besides my innate love of contradiction;  
Each poet—if a poet—in pursuing  
The muses thro' their bowers of Truth or Fiction,  
Has studied very little of his part,  
Read nothing, written less—in short's a fool  
Endued with neither soul, nor sense, nor art,  
Being ignorant of one important rule,  
Employed in even the theses of the school—  
Called—I forget the heathenish Greek name—  
(Called any thing, its meaning is the same)  
"Always write *first* things uppermost in the heart."

[1829]

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\*It was a saying of this philosopher "that one's own name should never appear in one's own book."