

1850

HOW DO I LOVE THEE? (From Sonnets from the Portuguese)

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Browning, Elizabeth Barrett (1806-1861) - English poet best known for her love sonnets, particularly those from her greatest work, "Sonnets From the Portuguese." Her courtship and elopement with her future husband, Robert Browning, remains one of the literary world's most celebrated romances. How Do I Love Thee? (1850) - This well-known poem opens with these famous lines: How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. / I love thee to the depth and breadth and height ...

HOW DO I LOVE THEE

HOW do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach,
when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.

I love thee to the level of everyday's
Most quiet need, by sun and
candle-light.

I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
I love thee purely, as they
turn from Praise.

I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with
my childhood's faith.

I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints,- I love
thee with the breath, Smiles, tears, of all my life!- and, if God
choose, I shall but love thee better after death.

THE END