The Passionate Shepherd to His Love

Come live with me and be my love,

And we will all the pleasures prove experience

That valleys, groves, hills, and fields,

Woods, or steepy mountain yields.

And we will sit upon the rocks,

Seeing the shepherds feed their flocks,

By shallow rivers to whose falls

Melodious birds sing madrigals.

And I will make thee beds of roses

And a thousand fragrant posies,

A cap of flowers, and a kirtle skirt

Embroidered all with leaves of myrtle;

A gown made of the finest wool

Which from our pretty lambs we pull;

Fair linèd slippers for the cold,

With buckles of the purest gold;

A belt of straw and ivy buds,

With coral clasps and amber studs:

And if these pleasures may thee move,

Come live with me, and be my love.

The shepherd swains rustic lovers

shall dance and sing

For thy delight each May morning:

If these delights thy mind may move,

Then live with me and be my love.

—1599

of Marlowe's original manuscript were reversed.

1 Erycine Another name for Venus, caught in bed with Mars by her husband Vulcan, who trapped the lovers in a bronze net.

2 Dis Another name for Pluto, god of the underworld and wealth.

3 Hesperus Evening star, the planet Venus.

4 Desunt nonnulla Latin: Some things are missing. Inserted by the first printer. Marlowe does not include the tragic end of the story as related by other authors. It is possible that he died before finishing the poem.

5 madrigals Part-songs for several voices, often with pastoral or amatory associations.