

Corresp. Prof to D. K. G. British Museum



BRITISH MUSEUM,

LONDON: W.C.

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Shaw

Sir,

The interpretation of Dante's "seconda morte"; in favour of which Mr. Paget Toynbee quotes Boetius, is supported by Vittoria Colonna's sonnet to Bembo, who had neglected to celebrate her deceased husband:-

Unkind was Fortune, who forbade the rays
Of my great Sun your kindling soul to smite,
For thus in perpetuity more bright
Your fame had been, more glorious his praise.
His memory, exalted in your days,
Enemy of ancient time, our time's delight,
Secure by you had shunned, in Time's dispute,
The second death, that on the spirit preys.

If in my bosom might infused be
My ardour, or my pen as yours inspired,
Great as the dead should be the eulogy.
But aim I fear lest Heaven with wrath be fired
Toward you, for overmuch humility;
Toward me, who have too daringly aspired.

The Editor of
The Academy.

Yours truly,
R. Garnett.