

## A NOTE ON DANTE'S PARADISO

IN the first ten lines of the thirty-third Canto is a word not rendered in any of the six translations which we know, but given, obviously faithfully, but inadequately, in Messrs. Dent and Co.'s literal version. Dante, true to Latin usage, puts his emphatic word first in his line, the ninth :

*Cosi* fu germogliato questo fiore

Some versions of his text as, for example, Dent's, have :

Cosi e germinato.

But there is meaning in the *fu*, and immense significance in the *cosi*. Perpend :

Thou Virgin Mother, Daughter of Thy Son,  
Lowly and lofty more than creatures be,  
Fixt aim to whom the eternal counsels runs,  
Ennobler of our nature, thou art She  
That did humanity so high uplift  
The Giver deigné covet back His gift.  
Within thy womb rekindled was the Love  
Whose glowing in the everlasting peace  
Did so engender such a Flower as This.

I crave indulgence for the use of capitals. After over thirty years' acquaintance with the original, it suddenly occurred to me that Dante's meaning was : That the eternal generation of the Son was, so to speak, repeated in the Virgin's womb. The *fu* along with *cosi* induced the belief. I am not a Dante scholar.

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